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AMERICAN REVIEW,
AND
LITERARY JOURNAL.

VOL. I.] FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1801. [NO. 3.

ARTICLE I.

The Natural and Civil History of Vermont. *By* Samuel Williams, LL. D. *Member of the Meteorological Society in Germany, of the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, and of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Massachusetts.* 8vo. pp. 416. *Walpole.* I. Thomas *and* D. Carlisle. 1794.

THIS performance, though it has been published seven years since, deserves the particular regard of those who undertake the history of American Literature. The nature of the work, as well as the manner in which it is executed, place it among the most valuable of our historical monuments.

That mode of historical writing which combines the narration of political events with comprehensive views of the natural history, the arts, sciences, and manners of a nation, is one of the most valuable inventions of modern times, and it redounds not a little to the honour of our own country, that it has produced several models of this kind. Dr. Belknap's History of New-Hampshire is highly estimable on this account, and the work before us affords a pleasing specimen of the same kind of writing.

The author begins with describing the situation, boundaries, area, soil, and face of the country; its lakes and rivers, climate, vegetable and animal productions. On all these subjects he has derived little assistance from the labours and researches of others. The path which his liberal curiosity has chosen, was untrodden, and information was almost wholly to be gained by personal observation and inquiry. In the execution of his task he has shown remarkable ingenuity and diligence.

The active mind of the author is seldom satisfied with merely stating facts. On every subject he is easily led into the investigation of causes, and some important conclusions are drawn by him from his own experiments. The manner in which he expatiates on the great phenomena of nature, may be seen in the following account of what, in New-England, are called the intervales of rivers.

"In this descent and passage to the ocean, all the large rivers in this part of America have also formed large tracts of intervale lands. By intervales we mean those low lands which are adjacent to the rivers, and are frequently overflowed by them in the spring and fall, or whenever the waters are raised to their greatest height. These intervales are level and extensive plains, of the same altitude as the banks of the river; in width they often reach from a quarter of a mile to a mile and an half, sometimes on one, and sometimes on both sides of the river. There are frequently two strata of the intervales, the one four or five feet higher than the other; the highest of which is not overflowed but when the waters are raised to an uncommon height; but they are level, and extensive like the other. Both of them have many indications that they were formed by the waters of the rivers. The soil is always of that rich mud and slime which is brought down by the rivers in the spring. In digging into these lands, various appearances of decaying vegetables are frequently found. The strata formed at particular years are easily distinguished; and the original and the new-made soil are so different as to be readily known. The limbs and trunks of large and sound trees are often found at various depths; sometimes as low as forty feet below the surface. The small islands in these intervales are of a different soil, and less rich; and are evidently the tops of small hills which have not been covered by the inundations of the rivers. These long and level surfaces are peculiar to the banks of rivers, and consist of the same rich manure which are yet annually brought down, and deposited by the waters. The cause by which they are now annually increased could not fail to have produced such effects in the course of a long series of years.

"In these intervales there are several places where another curious phenomenon occurs. The rivers have changed their courses, their ancient channels are left dry, and they have formed new ones. In the uncultivated parts of the country, where the operations of nature have not been altered or changed, the traveller finds many places where the rivers formerly

called, which are now dry, and at a considerable distance, sometimes a mile or more from the present beds of those rivers. In some of these ancient channels the waters must have run for a long number of ages, as they have worn the surface of the stones as smooth as those which are to be found on the sea shores. In some places the former channels are left dry, abounding with smooth stones and rocks: in others the channels are converted into ponds, or overgrown with bushes or trees. Appearances of this kind are common in all the mountainous parts of the country; and something of the same kind is constantly taking place in most of our rivers. In all large streams the channel is more or less affected every year. Strips of land, one or two rods in width, and of some miles in length, are often carried off in the spring, and additions are made to the banks in other places. The lands thus formed, in some places, in the course of a few years, amount to several acres, and are of an uncommon richness and fertility; but they are always attended with an equal loss in some other part of the river.

"How long a period nature has been employed in carrying on these operations we can scarcely hope to determine. All the circumstances relating to the channels of rivers, and the intervales which they have formed, are such as denote periods of time very remote, and of the highest antiquity. It can scarcely be supposed, that in the formation of the intervales the annual increase has amounted to the tenth part of an inch. At present, the freshets in the spring and fall, and throughout the year, do not annually deposit the one half of this quantity of earth upon the intervales. At no place in this State is there any appearance that the surface of the intervales has been raised an inch in the period of ten years. But admitting such an increase, where the depth of the intervales are fifty feet, the period necessary to produce such an effect would be six thousand years. But in all such kinds of computation, the data which we assume are not marked with sufficient certainty or precision to leave us satisfied with the conclusion. The effects of the rivers upon the solid rocks seem to be more slow, regular and uniform. There are situations in this, and in every part of America, where the water has been constantly flowing over a solid body of rock, ever since the channels of the rivers were first formed. If we knew, from observation, how much such rocks were worn away in one century by the waters, we could form a pretty just conclusion how long the waters have been running in those places. If the philosophers

of the present age will make accurate observations of the altitude and situations of such rocks, and put their observations upon record in the transactions of their philosophical societies, they will enable posterity to solve a problem which we can hardly expect to determine in our day."

To ascertain the climate and seasons, the author has availed himself, as far as his scanty materials would permit, of modern discoveries and improvements. He first marks the extremes of heat and cold by the thermometer: secondly, he notes the state of vegetation in various trees and shrubs, including the times of their budding, leafing, flowering, and arriving at maturity: thirdly, he states the periods in the growth of various sorts of grain, from the sowing to the gathering. His observations on the second and third heads are contained in tables, which present the results in one view, and relate to seventeen of the most common and useful vegetables. The latter method of describing the temperature of a climate is, perhaps, the most easy and certain, as well as the most satisfactory and useful. These tables are inserted here for the information of the curious.

"TABLE I.

"*A View of the Climate, taken from the State of Vegetation in the Trees and Shrubs.*

Trees and Shrubs.	*Buds.*	*Leaves.*	*Flowers.*	*Maturity.*
Elder,	April 5	April 14	June 15	———
Gooseberry,	April 6	April 16	May 9	July 20
Currant,	April 6	April 16	May 1	July 1
Raspberry,	April 6	April 17	May 27	July 5
Strawberry,	April 20	April 20	May 6	June 15
Wild Cherry,	April 20	April 28	May 4	June 28
Wild Plumb,	April 20	May 4	May 1	Aug. 12
Apple Tree,	April 22	May 1	May 12	Aug. 18

"TABLE II.

"*A View of the Climate, taken from the Fruits of the Field.*

Seeds and Fruits.	*Sown.*	*Flowers.*	*Gathered.*
Flax,	April 16	June 25	Aug. 1
Spring Wheat,	April 15	May 30	Aug. 15
Winter Wheat,	Sept. 1	May 26	Aug. 1
Oats,	April 20	June 7	Aug. 20
Pease,	April 16	May 26	July 1
Barley,	April 20	June 10	July 28
Rye,	Aug. 20	May 27	July 28
Indian Corn,	May 15	July 12	Oct. 1
Hay,	———	———	July 10

The appearance, effects and duration of frost and snow—the direction and periods of winds, are next stated. We are then presented with a table in which the degrees of mean heat, at eight parallels of latitude, from the 35th to the 59th, in North-America, for each month in the year, are methodically exhibited. The observations for Massachusetts and Vermont were made by our author himself, in the years 1784 and 1789. The others are taken from the best authorities. The quantity of rain falling at four different places in the course of one year, is shown in a fourth table, and a fifth displays the state of the weather, at six different places, as divided into "fair, cloudy, rain, snow, hail, fog, hazy, thunder, and aurora borealis."

While discussing this subject he is naturally led to notice the changes which cultivation and improvement seem to have wrought in the temperature and seasons of America.—The following observations on that subject will not fail to be acceptable.

"Instead of remaining fixed and settled, the climate is perpetually changing and altering, in all its circumstances and affections. And this change, instead of being so slow and gradual as to be a matter of doubt, is so rapid and constant, that it is the subject of common observation and experience. It has been observed in every part of the United States; but is most of all sensible and apparent in a new country, which is suddenly changing from a state of vast uncultivated wilderness, to that of numerous settlements, and extensive improvements.—When the settlers move into a new township, their first business is to cut down the trees, clear up the lands, and sow them with grain. The earth is no sooner laid open to the influence of the sun and winds, than the effects of cultivation begin to appear. The surface of the earth becomes more *warm* and *dry*. As the settlements increase, these effects become more general and extensive: the cold decreases, the earth and air become more warm, and the whole temperature of the climate becomes more equal, uniform and moderate. At the same time the lands and roads become more dry and hard: the stagnant waters disappear, small streams and rivulets dry up, and the redundant waters are carried off. The number and quantity of the snows decrease; the winds receive new directions, and the weather and seasons become much altered. These changes every where attend the cultivation of the country; and have formed a remarkable change of climate in those states, which have been long settled.

"In this change of climate, the first effect which is gene-

rally observed is an alteration in the temperature. The cold of the winters decreases; the rivers are not frozen so soon, so thick, or so long, as they formerly were; and the effects of extreme cold, in every respect, appear to be diminished. A remarkable change of this kind has been observed in all the settled parts of North-America.

"A permanent alteration in the temperature of the climate or atmosphere supposes an alteration equally great and permanent in the heat of the earth. Whether the heat of the earth is thus affected by cultivation, and what will be its effects, I endeavoured to ascertain in the following manner. On the 23d of May, 1789, I sunk a thermometer to the depth of ten inches below the surface of the earth. Upon repeated trials the quicksilver stood at fifty degrees. This was in a level, open field, used for pasture or grazing, and fully exposed to the sun. The same experiment was then made in the woods, where the surface of the earth was covered with trees, and never had been cultivated. To ascertain the gradual increase of heat at each place, the observations were often repeated. The result was as follows.

Time.		*Heat in the Pasture.*	*Heat in the Woods.*	*Difference.*
May	23	50°	46°	6°
	28	57	48	9
June	15	64	51	13
	27	62	51	11
July	16	62	51	11
	30	65½	55½	10
August	15	68	58	10
	31	59½	55	4½
September	15	59½	55	4½
October	1	59½	55	4½
	15	49	49	0
November	1	43	43	0
	16	43½	43½	0

"The effect of cultivation, with regard to the heat of the earth, so far as it can be collected from these experiments, appears to be this: Exposing the land to the full force of the solar rays in this latitude, will produce an heat, at the depth of ten inches below the surface, ten or eleven degrees greater than that which prevails in the uncultivated parts of the country; and this effect continues while the solar rays are sufficient to increase the heat of the earth. This additional heat in the earth will be sufficient to produce the same altera-

tion in the temperature of the air: for whatever degree of heat prevails in the earth, nearly the same will be communicated to the lower parts of the atmosphere. Thus the earth and the air, in the cultivated parts of the country, are heated, in consequence of their cultivation, ten or eleven degrees more than they were in their uncultivated state. It should seem, from these observations, that the effect, or the degree of heat produced by cultivation, is the same with the change of climate that has taken place in the eastern part of Massachusetts."

The catalogue here given of the forest trees and esculent vegetables of Vermont, includes only the most common and useful. Curious particulars, however, are stated respecting their magnitude, number, age, evaporation, emission of air, and demands for heat. On this subject the following experiments deserve notice.

"Besides the growth, there are other processes carried on by nature in vegetables, of which we have no suspicion until their effects become apparent. This is the case with the evaporation which takes place from the woods during the summer months. Every tree, plant, and vegetable is then pouring into the atmosphere an amazing quantity of fluid. On the 12th of June, 1789, I put the end of one of the limbs of a small maple tree into a bottle containing about one pint. That part of the limb which was within the bottle contained two leaves and one or two buds. The mouth of the bottle was stopped up with bees-wax, that no vapour might escape. In five or six minutes the inside of the bottle was clouded with a very fine vapour, and in about half an hour small drops began to collect on the sides and run down to the bottom. At the end of six hours I weighed the water which had been collected in the bottle during that time, and found it to amount to sixteen grains, troy weight. The tree on which this experiment was made was eight inches and an half in diameter, and thirty feet in height. To make an estimate of the quantity of water thrown off from this tree into the atmosphere, in a given portion of time, I endeavoured to ascertain the number of leaves which it contained. With this view (after I had made some other experiments) I had the tree cut down, and was at the pains to count the leaves which it contained; the whole number amounting to twenty-one thousand one hundred and ninety-two. Admitting the evaporation to be the same from the other leaves of the tree as it was from those on which the experiment was made, the quantity of water thrown off from this

tree in the space of twelve hours, would be three hundred and thirty-nine thousand and seventy-two grains. Upon examining the number and dimensions of the trees which covered the ground where I made the experiment, I think it would be a moderate computation to estimate them as equal both in magnitude and extent, on every square rod, to four such trees as that which I had examined. This will give six hundred and forty such trees for the quantity of wood contained on one acre. This estimation is less than the quantity of wood which is generally found upon one acre of land in this part of America. The weight of one pint of water is one pound avoirdupoise, or seven thousand grains troy weight, and eight such pints make one gallon. Making the calculation upon these principles, it will be found that from one acre of land thus covered with trees, three thousand eight hundred and seventy-five gallons of water are thrown off and dispersed in the atmosphere in the space of twelve hours.

"This computation will not appear extravagant to those who have seen the great quantity of juice which naturally flows out of some of our trees when they are tapped in the spring. A man much employed in making maple sugar found, that for twenty-one days together one of the maple trees which he tended discharged seven gallons and an half each day. A large birch which was tapped in the spring, ran at the rate of five gallons an hour when first tapped; and during the season of the running of the sap it discharged sixty barrels in one spring. The consequence of this waste of the juices was the death of the tree the ensuing summer. I have this account from the Hon. *Paul Brigham*, Esq. These accounts serve to show what a quantity of fluid is naturally contained in some of our trees, and from a source so plentiful a copious evaporation might naturally be expected."

In the enumeration of animals which follows, there is no attempt at scientific classification; but there are interspersed many valuable observations on the origin, migration, magnitude, disposition, and multiplying power of quadrupeds. An interesting view is here given of the history and policy of the beaver. The claims of America to an equality with the other portions of the globe, in the number and importance of its animal productions, are successfully maintained.

A view is next given of the state of the original inhabitants of America. This, though accurate, comprehensive and judicious, contains not much that is new.

There are few more striking instances of the necessity of

caution in listening to the tales of travellers, than the prevalence of an opinion among the writers of Europe, that an Indian is naturally beardless. And that Buffon, Robertson, and others, who have lived in a lettered and commercial age, should adopt this opinion with regard to a nation so extensive, so well known, and with whom Europeans have had such long and various intercourse, is truly surprising.

The question concerning the superiority of the rude or polished state of society, is discussed by our author with ingenuity and candour. A comparison is drawn between the advantages and evils of the savage state; and we cannot but concur with him in the preference he gives to civilization.

The author next proceeds to investigate the origin of the Indian race, their antiquity, social progress, and tendency to dissolution. The consideration of their antiquity suggests the following remarks, which seem to be original.

"The continent of America, in its dimensions, amounts to one third part of the habitable globe. Over the whole of this continent had the savages extended, when it was first discovered by Columbus, in the year 1492. Their population had then attained its greatest perfection. No increase of their numbers has any where appeared to take place since that time. No circumstance or event has taken place, during the three hundred years that the Europeans have been acquainted with the Indians, which can lead us to suspect that the savage state either has or can admit of a greater population than what it had already attained. Nor is it probable that any increase of numbers and population could have taken place, while hunting continued to be the method of procuring subsistence.—From the observations that were made in Virginia and Massachusetts, it has been computed that the population of the Indians upon the sea coasts could not be estimated higher than one for every square mile. In the inland parts of the country the Indian population certainly did not exceed this. Geographers have computed the number of square miles in America to amount to fourteen millions one hundred and ten thousand eight hundred and seventy-four. We cannot make a nearer computation than to suppose this was about the number of Indians it required in the hunter's state to spread over the whole continent. How long a period would it require for the savages to increase to such a number? There has been no instance of a more rapid increase than that of the British colonies in America. They were aided by new emigrations from Europe; but so much were they retarded and broke up in their settle-

ments by war, before the American revolution, that they did not, in fact, double their numbers in thirty years. The families of the Indians did not contain more than half so many members as those of the white people. The Indian population, then, will be highly estimated if we compute it to one half of that of the white inhabitants, and instead of thirty admit sixty years as the period of doubling. Assuming the population to have proceeded from one male and female, this would require thirteen centuries and an half to have spread over the whole continent, and produced one inhabitant to every square mile. The period of population could not have been less than this. But probably this period was completed long before Columbus came into America. The Indians, in several places, had gone out of the hunter's state. On the sea coasts they were advancing into something like monarchy. In Mexico and Peru they were become extremely numerous, and had established extensive and powerful empires; the duration of which could be traced back four or five hundred years. From their extent and population, then, we deduce, with some degree of probability, that the Indians must have been settled in America eighteen centuries when Columbus first discovered the continent. This will carry us back three centuries before the christian era.

"The number and variety of their *languages* implies and requires a much longer duration, and an higher antiquity. The Indians of America had not only spread over the continent, but they had every where formed themselves into a number of small tribes. If we may judge of the number of these tribes from what took place in New-England and Virginia, they must have amounted to thousands. Several of these tribes had subsisted so long in a national form, and as a distinct people, that they had formed a particular language for themselves. There were three original languages spoken in Canada; the Sioux, the Huron, and the Algonquin. In New-England there were one or two others: in Virginia there were three, different from either of these: in Mexico thirty-five were discovered: in South-America there were still more: in Maraguon the Portuguese counted fifty. In each of these places the dialects were nearly as many as their tribes; and yet these places made but a small part of the continent. What an immense period of time does this require? A language may be separated into different dialects in a few generations: but for these dialects to recede so far from one another as to lose all resemblance and affinity, and several new languages to be formed, radically dif-

fering from one another, could not take place, or be effected, until the tribes had subsisted for many centuries as distinct and separate nations. We cannot estimate this process by fixed periods of time, because we have no facts from which a computation can be made. But it may be compared to the state and progress of things in the other hemisphere: and we shall find the number of languages radically differing from one another more numerous among the Americans than they were in Asia and Europe. Is not this an indication that the red men of America are as ancient as the other nations of the earth? Learning and science they had none; but nature, situation and necessity would operate as certainly and as regularly upon them as upon any other people. And would it not require as long a period of time to produce and to form a language among the savages as among any other people? This circumstance seems to denote an antiquity fully equal to that which is claimed by any of the nations of the other hemisphere.

"Their antiquity may also be traced back to the time when the most useful arts were unknown, and when the red men of Asia had not the use of the metals, or of domestic animals. Some of the arts must have been nearly coeval with the human race; for neither food, raiment, or habitations could be procured without something of them. Some of the arts have been gradually advancing, without owing much to any original inventor. And many of them are of such antiquity, that their origin and inventor are beyond the reach of history. This is the case with the most necessary and useful arts of life. The origin of spinning and knitting, of the plough, the loom, and the forge, were more ancient than any of our historical monuments, records or traditions. But when those arts were invented they never could be lost. Amidst the wars, changes, and revolutions to which nations are exposed, what are called the fine arts may perish and be lost. But no vicissitudes of human affairs tend to destroy those arts by which all men derive their subsistence, and which are equally necessary to the conqueror and to the captive, to the oppressor and to the oppressed. The same observation may be made with respect to the use of domestic animals. A people that have experienced the advantages derived from the food they afford, and from the labour they perform, would never lose this kind of knowledge, but endeavour to apply it to such kind of animals as they found in the country to which they repaired. Of all these the Indians of America were ignorant. They knew not the use of the metals, spinning, weaving, or the domestic animals: they

had derived no such knowledge from their ancestors, nor had they acquired it themselves. At what period, then, must they have settled in America? Before these arts were known in Asia; before the Scythians became husbandmen; and before the most necessary and useful arts were known in the midst of Asia. Without attempting, therefore, to go back to the beginning of the creation of God, we can find circumstances that will carry us as far back into antiquity as any other nation can pretend. The history and pretensions of the Chinese do not imply or suppose any circumstances of greater antiquity than those which have been mentioned; and it must be from circumstances and facts, not from tradition, that we must trace the antiquity and origin of ancient nations."

Some objection may, perhaps, be made to his opinion, that the passage from Asia to America took place before the Asiatics had acquired the use of metals, or of domestic animals. The Malayan race that occupy the South Sea Islands, and the tribes in those parts of the Eastern Continent nearest to America, were, in the eighteenth century, as rude and uninformed as the natives of America. Whatever inferences, therefore, may be drawn from this circumstance, as to the age of the Tungusi and Otaheitians, the same cannot be made respecting the Americans, who, for aught that appears in the condition of their nearest neighbours, may have emigrated from their parent stock, at a very recent period. The transfer and preservation of the arts, appear by no means so necessary or so easy as our author imagines. He seems not sufficiently to take into account the variety and the influence of circumstances, the partial prevalence of ignorance among even civilized nations, and how much the preservation of the most necessary arts depends upon an extensive and compact population.

The history of the British settlements in Virginia and New-Holland shows the difficulty of originally subduing a wilderness by agriculture, and the facility there is in man to accommodate himself to external circumstances. Numerous and repeated emigrations, frequent intercourse with the mother country, and an original and plentiful supply of the tools and productions of the arts seem absolutely necessary for this purpose. Suppose a small number of French or English to be cast upon a desert shore, would not their immediate wants set them to hunting and fishing? They could not dig iron from the mine, or tear out the heart of the oak with their hands, and probably not one of the troop is either blacksmith, weaver or wheel-wright. The task of domesticating wild animals would be too arduous for

their sloth to undertake. The zebra, the buffaloe, and the antilope would continue at liberty; past images and habits would be destroyed; new ones would spring up in their room, and a second or third generation would, perhaps, be no better than Hurons or Caffres.

The writer infers the antiquity of the "red men" from the *number* and *diversity* of their languages. These circumstances, however, seem to indicate their savage state rather than their antiquity. Commerce and literature tend, in an eminent degree, to preserve, diffuse, and perpetuate, as well as to improve, a language. These are the only causes that prevent incessant changes and endless multiplication of dialects. This multiplication must be proportioned to the rudeness, the slender intercourse, and the scattered state of mankind; circumstances that mutually imply and produce each other, and that formerly obtained in America to a greater extent than elsewhere.

Dr. Williams closes this department of his work with some reflections on the tendency to dissolution and probable destruction of the Indian race.

"Instead of wishing for such an event, it would add to the glory of the United States to make a serious attempt to prevent it. It has been the practice of arbitrary governments to sport with the liberties and lives of men. A government of reason and nature ought to attempt to conciliate the affections of a free, brave, independent, and generous people. It would be a greater glory than we have ever yet attained, if we could find out a way to impart the blessings of the civil state to a people whose greatest miseries and misfortunes have been derived from the superior arts, the policy, and the power of civilized nations."

The humane and equitable treatment of the Indians is certainly desirable and laudable; but it may be doubted whether it be for their advantage to continue to exist as a separate and independent people. All efforts to change the habits of an Indian tribe, while it remains independent and entire, will be fruitless. This end can be effected only by dissolving their political connection with each other, and by dispersing them among the mass of the white inhabitants; in consequence of which their native language would become useless, and their former way of life would of necessity give place to the practice of the mechanic arts, and of tillage. By thus assimilating, in language and manners, to the descendants of Europe, the race would, in some sense, be preserved, but they would exist

in a manner most conducive to their own and the general happiness.

This revolution has partly taken place already, since we now find Indians scattered, though sparingly, throughout the United States, as sailors, servants, and artizans; but it must not be expected that in this manner any entire tribe can be at once dissolved and dispersed. To effect this, however, would be easier than to transform them into blacksmiths, weavers, and tillers of land; but this effect could not be produced without unjustifiable violence. Yet it seems undeniable, that by incorporating them with our citizens we take the surest way of imparting to them the blessings of civilization, and that only by dissolving their political bands, and dispersing them among the whites, we can hope to blend them, in language and manners, with ourselves.

The future history of the Indians within the bounds of the United States, as these bounds are at present fixed, or as they may be hereafter enlarged, may be easily conjectured. As the number of whites increases the Indian territory will be gradually encroached on and circumscribed. Individuals among them will, as heretofore, be continually, and by various accidents, detached from their nation, and be confounded with the whites. Each tribe itself, from causes peculiar to a vagrant life, and from the diminution of their means of subsistence, will rapidly decrease in numbers. Hemmed in on all sides, and helpless from the fewness of their numbers, and only secured by the laws in the possession of some petty village or district, in less than sixty years the red men will be discerned in the regions on this side the Mississippi, harmlessly and penuriously occupying only such minute spots as are now found in Connecticut, Long-Island and New-Jersey. There is little doubt but that, before a new century arrives, all distinctions between red and white men will have utterly vanished.

A revolution of this kind, instead of being injurious to human happiness, or arguing inhumanity and cruelty in the Europeans, is a necessary consequence of their superiority in arts and civilization, by reason of which greater numbers can derive sustenance from a smaller space, and with more ease than is compatible with savage manners. The Indian will disappear merely because he has become the member of a white family, or because, dying without posterity, he has left his field to be occupied by a man of a different race.

Such, no doubt, will be the destiny of the Indians of North-America; but our author is mistaken in imagining that the

aborigines of every part of the new world are in like manner hastening to extinction. The social condition of the people of Peru and Mexico permitted their numbers to increase, in proportion to their extent of territory, in a greater degree than can possibly take place in a nation of hunters. Hence it is, that the Spanish conquerors, notwithstanding their ferocity and folly, have not been able wholly to exterminate the race; and it is well known that two centuries of peace, and the introduction of European arts among them, have raised their present numbers far above the population of the United States. Mexico, Peru, and New-Grenada, are peopled by millions of Indians, who have become husbandmen and artisans, and who have adopted the dress, religion, and, in some degree, though less perfectly, the language of their conquerors. The Spanish conquest of these provinces will produce effects essentially similar to those of the Roman conquest of Gaul, or the Norman conquest of England. Time will blend the two nations, and the ancient Indian stock will survive and flourish, and put forth innumerable branches to the most distant ages.

Our examination of this work has carried us already so far that we shall defer the sequel to a future number.

(To be continued.)

ARTICLE II.

The Medical Repository. Conducted by Samuel L. Mitchill, *M. D. Professor of Chemistry in Columbia College, &c.* Edward Miller, *M. D. and* Elihu H. Smith, *one of the Physicians to the New-York Hospital. Vol.* ii. pp. 455. *2d Edition. New-York.* T. & J. Swords. 1800.

PURSUING the same order of arrangement, and the same plan of general and cursory remark, which were observed in considering the former volume, we shall proceed to lay before our readers a brief account of the present.

This volume contains the following papers on *pestilential* diseases, viz.

1. *On the febrifuge virtues of lime, magnesia, and alkaline salts in dysentery, yellow fever, and scarlatina anginosa. In a letter from Dr. Jeremiah Barker, of Portland (Maine), to Dr. Mitchill.*

2. *An account of the pestilential fever which prevailed at Wilmington (North-Carolina), in* 1796. *In a letter to Dr. Miller, by A. J. De Rosset, M. D.*
3. *Concerning the malignant pestilential fever of Grenada, as it appeared in* 1793 *and* 1794. *In a letter from Dr. Chisholm to the late Dr. E. H. Smith.*

These communications are chiefly historical. The authors discover talents for observation, and state very important and instructive facts, in a perspicuous and apparently candid manner. It is from a collection of materials of this kind that a satisfactory theory and mode of treating pestilence will probably, at length, be derived.

4. *On the pestilential diseases which, at different times, appeared in the Athenian, Carthaginian, and Carthaginian and Roman armies, in the neighbourhood of Syracuse. By the late Dr. E. H. Smith.*

This paper discovers much of the ingenuity, learning, and comprehensiveness of mind, for which its accomplished author was so eminently distinguished.

5. *An account of the pestilential disease which prevailed at Boston (Massachusetts) in the summer and autumn of* 1798. *By Samuel Brown, M. D.*
6. *An account of the pestilential disease which prevailed at New-London (Connecticut) in the summer and autumn of* 1798. *Communicated in a letter from the Rev. Henry Channing to Dr. Mitchill.*
7. *Additional account of the same fever. Communicated in a letter from Dr. Coit to Dr. Mitchill.*

These gentlemen convey much valuable information concerning the melancholy scenes which they depict. We are particularly pleased when we observe persons not of the medical profession, which we believe is the case with Mr. Channing, communicating the result of their observations on subjects of this kind. The candid opinion of an enlightened, liberal mind, not biassed by attachment to medical theory, is of great value on a question so much agitated in our country as the origin and nature of yellow fever.

8. *Cursory observations on that form of pestilence called yellow fever. By Edward Miller, M. D.*

The design of Dr. Miller, in this paper, is to combine a number of facts relating to the operation of *poisons* on the animal system—to compare them with the action of *febrile miasmata*—and to draw such conclusions concerning the nature, prevention and treatment of pestilential diseases, as may

appear legitimately to result from the comparison. In pursuance of this design, he brings together a number of facts, and derives from them principles and reasonings which are curious, and worthy of attention.

The next class of papers in this volume consists of those which relate to miscellaneous medical subjects. They are the following:

1. *A case of diseased os innominatum successfully treated. By E. A. Holyoke, M. D. of Salem, Massachusetts.*
2. *Theory of puerperal fever. By Dr. John Brickell, of Savannah.*
3. *Dissertation on the sick head-ach. By Dr. Nathaniel Dwight, of Connecticut.*
4. *A case of difficult parturition successfully terminated by bleeding. Communicated by Dr. William Dewees, of Philadelphia.*
5. *An inquiry concerning cutaneous perspiration, and the operation and uses of sudorific remedies. By Edward Miller, M. D.*
6. *On the ill effects of blood-letting in putrid bilious fevers, &c. as they appear in North-Carolina. In a letter to Dr. Hosack, by Hugh Williamson, M. D. &c.*
7. *Singular termination of an omental hernia. Communicated in a letter to Dr. Mitchill, by Dr. James Stratton, of Swedesburgh, New-Jersey.*
8. *Observations on the use of the warm bath in cases of laborious parturition. Communicated in a letter from Dr. W. Dewees, Lecturer on Midwifery in Philadelphia, to Dr. E. H. Smith.*
9. *Inquiry into the effects attributed to the introduction of a greater or lesser quantity of variolous matter into the system by inoculation, &c. By Louis Valentin, &c. of Montpellier.*
10. *Account of the Cachexia Africana; a disease incidental to negro slaves lately imported into the West-Indies. By George Davidson, of Fort-Royal.*

These communications are of different relative value. Several of them relate to curious and interesting subjects, on which we are yet far from having full and satisfactory light. We have derived from the discussion of them here exhibited both entertainment and instruction.

The *chemical* papers in this volume are numerous and valuable. They relate to the following subjects:

1. *An easy and cheap method of preparing sal aëratus. By E. A. Holyoke, M. D. of Salem, Massachusetts.*

2. *Second letter from Dr. Priestley to Dr. Mitchill on the phlogistic controversy.*
3. *Answer to Dr. Priestley, by Dr. Mitchill, on the same subject, and proposing the introduction of some new terms into the nomenclature of chemistry.*
4. *Professor Maclean against the doctrine of phlogiston; in a letter to Dr. Mitchill, dated College of New-Jersey, July* 16, 1798.
5. *Remarks on the red precipitate of mercury. By Dr. Priestley, &c.*
6. *Objections to the antiphlogistic doctrine of water. By Dr. Priestley, &c.*
7. *Experiments relating to the calces of metals. By Dr. Priestley, &c.*
8. *Experiments made with ivory black, and with diamonds. By Dr. Priestley, &c.*
9. *Observations on soda. By Dr. Mitchill, &c.*
10. *On the phlogistic theory. In a letter from Dr. Priestley to Dr. Mitchill.*
11. *A letter to Dr. John Maclean, Professor, &c. in the College of New-Jersey. By James Woodhouse, M. D. Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania.*

It is taken for granted that the leading points of difference between the *phlogistic* theory of STAHL and his followers, and the more recent doctrines, which have been denominated the *antiphlogistic* theory of the French academicians, viz. LAVOISIER and his associates, are familiarly known to the readers of this Review. Dr. PRIESTLEY still adheres to the former, notwithstanding all the ingenuity, the confidence, and, as many suppose, the decisive experiments with which the latter has been supported. He still contends that *metals* are *compound* bodies—that *water* is a *simple* substance—that *fixed air* [carbonic acid gas] is formed by the union of *inflammable* [hydrogenous] and *dephlogisticated* [oxygenous] airs—and that *phlogisticated* air (or *azote*) is not a *simple* but a *compound* substance, &c. In defending these opinions, and in opposing the doctrines of the new school, he has displayed great diligence, acuteness of observation, and ingenuity of experiment. And whether he shall be finally vanquished or not, he will enjoy the honour of having made the most of his cause. He has been long engaged in defending it; and the letters before us contain some new remarks and experiments, which he thought worthy of being communicated to the public. Professor MACLEAN, of Princeton, and Professor WOODHOUSE,

of Philadelphia, appear as the advocates of the antiphlogistic doctrines, and exhibit considerable ingenuity and learning in support of their opinions.

Professor MITCHILL, in his letter to Dr. Priestley, allows the force of some of that gentleman's remarks on the doctrine of *phlogiston;* and suggests the idea of evading all difficulty, and reconciling the contending parties, by giving the name of *Phlogiston* to that substance which is usually called *Hydrogen.* For the grounds of this proposal, the advantages anticipated from its adoption, and the ingenious and learned arguments by which the plan is supported, we refer our readers to the Professor's letter at large.

The next department of this volume is that which is devoted to the discussion of subjects in *natural history.* The communications on this branch of science are ten in number, viz.

1. *On the use of the radix seneka in the cure of croup, &c. By Dr. J. Archer, of Hartford County, Maryland, &c.*
2. *The effects of the datura stramonium on the human body, &c. By Benjamin De Witt, M. D. of Albany.*
3. *Medical observations on the virtues and properties of the seeds of the datura stramonium. By Dr. Alexander King, of Sheffield, Connecticut.*
4. *Outlines of medical geography. By Dr. Mitchill, F. R. S. E. &c.*
5. *Remarks concerning the elk. By Dr. E. H. Smith, &c.*
6. *Account of a species of cantharis found in Buck's County, Pennsylvania, &c. By Isaac Chapman, Physician.*
7. *On the disappearance of swallows in autumn. In a letter from Mr. Peter Cole to Dr. Mitchill.*
8. *An account of a supposed artificial wall, discovered under the surface of the earth, in North-Carolina. In a letter from the Rev. James Hall to Professor Woodhouse, &c.*
9. *Dr. Woodhouse's reply to Mr. Hall.*
10. *Experiments with the Eudiometer at Martinique. By Dr. George Davidson, &c.*

We lament that the limits to which we are confined do not permit us to enter into a particular account of each of these communications. They are all valuable, and several of them highly curious and interesting. We take for granted, however, that no student of natural history will be contented without recurring to the work itself. To such no abstract which we could give, or judgment we could pronounce, would be likely to afford entire satisfaction.

A portion of this volume, as of the former, is devoted to a *Review* of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Philosophy. We shall simply lay before our readers the *titles* of the several books reviewed, without attempting either to repeat or to controvert the characters which the Editors have chosen to give them respectively. They are as follow:

1. *A Treatise on the Action of Mercury upon living Bodies, and its Application for the Cure of Diseases of Indirect Debility. By* Charles Maclean.
2. *Collections for an Essay towards a Materia Medica of the United States. Read before the Philadelphia Medical Society, on the 21st of February,* 1798. *By* Benjamin Smith Barton, *M. D. &c. &c.*
3. *Observations on the Causes and Cure of Remitting Bilious Fevers. To which is annexed, an Abstract of the Opinions and Practice of different Authors; and an Appendix, exhibiting Facts and Reflections relative to the Synochus Icteroides, or Yellow Fever. By* William Currie, *Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, &c.*
4. *A Treatise on the Autumnal Endemial Epidemic of Tropical Climates, vulgarly called the Yellow Fever; containing its Origin, History, Nature and Cure; together with a few Reflections on the Proximate Cause of Diseases. By* John Davidge, *A. M. M. D.*
5. *An Account of the Contagious Epidemic Yellow Fever which prevailed in Philadelphia in the Summer and Autumn of* 1797; *comprising the Questions of its Causes and Domestic Origin, Characters, Medical Treatment, and Preventives. By* Felix Pascalis Ouvière, *M. D. &c.*
6. *An Inaugural Dissertation on the Production of Animal Heat; read and defended at a Public Examination, held by the Medical Professors, &c. of Harvard College, for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine, July* 10, 1797. *By* Lyman Spalding.
7. *Proofs of the Origin of the Yellow Fever, in Philadelphia and Kensington, in the Year* 1797, *from Domestic Exhalation; and from the foul Air of the Snow Navigation, from Marseilles; and from that of the Ship Huldah, from Hamburgh; in two Letters, addressed to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By the* Academy of Medicine of Philadelphia.
8. *An Inaugural Dissertation, showing in what Manner Pestilential Vapours acquire their Acid Quality, and*

how this is neutralized and destroyed by Alkalis, &c. &c. By Adolph C. Lent, *Citizen of the State of New-York.*

9. *A Treatise on the Scarlatina Anginosa and Dysentery; and Sketches on Febrile Spasm, as produced by Phlogiston. By* Israel Allen, *M. D.*

10. *Medical Inquiries and Observations: Containing an Account of the Yellow Fever, as it appeared in Philadelphia, in* 1797; *and Observations upon the Nature and Cure of the Gout and Hydrophobia. By* Benjamin Rush, *M. D. Professor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Vol.* v.

11. *A Sketch of the Revolutions in Chemistry. By* Thomas P. Smith.

12. *An Experimental Dissertation on the Rhus Vernix, Rhus Radicans, and Rhus Glabrum, commonly known, in Pennsylvania, by the Names of Poison-Ash, Poison-Vine, and Common Sumach. By* Thomas Horsfield, *of Bethlehem, &c.*

13. *An Inaugural Dissertation on Cynanche Trachealis, commonly called Croup or Hives. By* John Archer, *jun.*

14. *An Inaugural Dissertation on the salutary Effects of Mercury in Malignant Fevers. By* James Stuart.

15. *Letters from the Health-Office, submitted to the Common-Council of the City of New-York. By* Richard Bayley.

16. *Memoirs of the Yellow Fever which appeared in Philadelphia, and other Parts of the United States of America, in the Summer and Autumn of the present Year* (1798), *&c. By* William Currie, *S. C. M. P. &c.*

17. *Transactions of the Society instituted in the State of New-York for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures. Part* iii.

18. *Description of the Genesee Country, its rapidly progressive Population and Improvements; in a Series of Letters from a Gentleman to his Friend.*

19. *Facts and Observations relative to the Nature and Origin of the Pestilential Fever which prevailed in this City (Philadelphia) in* 1793, 1797, *and* 1798. *By the* College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Each quarterly number composing this volume contains a body of *Medical and Philosophical News*, derived from Europe and America, and made up, for the most part, of curious and valuable articles. Every votary of science will read this portion of the work with particular pleasure.

To each of the three last numbers an appendix is added,

containing such medical and philosophical papers as had been before published in a more fugitive form, and which the Editors judged worthy of being preserved.

We have only to remark, on taking leave of this volume, that, while it affords new evidence of the zeal, diligence, and enterprising spirit of the gentlemen who conduct the publication, it evinces also the increased favour of the public, the extension of their correspondence, and abundant proof of the utility of their labours. We cordially wish them success in the prosecution of their valuable work, and shall, with pleasure, proceed to lay before our readers an account of the succeeding volumes in order.

ARTICLE III.

The New and Universal Gazetteer; or, Modern Geographical Dictionary: Containing a full and authentic Description of the different Empires, Kingdoms, Republics, States, Provinces, Islands, Cities, Towns, Forts, Mountains, Caves, Capes, Canals, Rivers, Lakes, Oceans, Seas, Bays, Harbours, &c. in the known World; the Government, Customs, Manners and Religion of the Inhabitants; the Situation, Extent, Boundaries, Subdivisions, Climate, Soil, Natural Productions, and Curiosities of each Country; the Manufactures and Trade of the Cities and Towns; their Longitudes from the Meridian of Philadelphia; their Latitudes; the Sieges they have undergone, and the Battles fought near them: Including the new Political Divisions of Europe, and several hundred Places in the United States of America never before published. The whole containing many thousand Places not found in any similar Geographical Work; and wherein upwards of five hundred Errors are corrected in the Encyclopædia Britannica, and in Millar, Payne, Guthrie, Watson, Brooks, Walker, Morse, &c. To which is added, a new and easy Introduction to Geography and Astronomy; with a Nomenclature, explaining the essential Terms in each Science. Illustrated with twenty-five Maps, an Armillary Sphere, and several Diagrams. By Joseph Scott. *In four vols.* 8vo. *Philadelphia.* Baileys, *and* Patterson & Cochron. 1799, 1800.

THE compiler of this work, like many authors of popular books, or of books that are designed to be popular, is anxious to acquaint the reader, as soon as possible, with the excellent

and plentiful fare provided for him. For this end he has largely detailed his pretensions in his title-page, and the following passage in his preface will tell the reader on what these pretensions to superior copiousness and accuracy are founded.

"In the compilation of the New and Universal Gazetteer, I have consulted three of the most celebrated systems of Geography, seven of the latest Gazetteers, more than two hundred volumes of travels, voyages and history, a Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, different periodical publications, several treatises on Astronomy and the first principles of Geography, and upwards of one hundred and fifty maps; beside *six hundred and fifty letters*, which I received in the lapse of these eighteen months, from gentlemen in different parts of the United States, describing various towns, villages, soil, produce, curiosities, &c. It affords me a heartfelt satisfaction to embrace this opportunity of declaring myself under particular obligations to those gentlemen for the readiness which they discovered, and the interesting part numbers of them took, in collecting and forwarding the information I requested. These letters, and other information which I received from several gentlemen who travelled through many parts of France, Holland, Germany, Poland, and the Cisalpine Republic, justify me in assuring the reader that he will, in the New and Universal Gazetteer, find more original matter than in any similar geographical publication of the present day. He will also find many errors corrected in the Encyclopædia, and several geographical works. This has been to me much cause of perplexity, having frequently to make new calculations, and often to search through many volumes, when error could not be corrected by calculation. In such a multiplicity of calculations and researches, it is likely I have committed some errors; but these, I believe, are few, and I would thank any gentleman to point them out to me, for correction in a future edition."

Geography, strictly speaking, is nothing more than that system of observations and rules by which the dimensions of the earth, and of all its superficial divisions, are ascertained. It is easy to distinguish between the rule and the truths discovered by the application of the rule. The rules by which the dimensions of the earth and its permanent parts, that is, by which the height, length, breadth and direction, either absolute or relative, of the surfaces of land and water, are measured, form one department of the science; and the actual height, length, breadth, and direction of these surfaces, as far as they have been ascertained, form another department. The man-

ners and history of nations; the divisions of mankind into religions, languages, and political communities; their numbers; their arts; are subjects as distinct from the proper objects of geography as any one science can possibly be from another. All the branches of human inquiry, indeed, are linked together, and illustrate and enforce each other; and geography, or the knowledge of mere local divisions, is highly useful to the student of some other sciences; but it is inaccurate to call by this name speculations merely moral or political. For unless the grand and acknowledged divisions of the sciences be observed, every book would become a rude mass, formed of the fragments of all.

Almost all geographical compilers, however, seem to have lost sight of this distinction. Their works are little more than bulky medleys of politics, history, and miscellaneous remarks on the manners, languages, and arts of different nations, arranged in the order in which the territories of these nations stand on a map. The facts, strictly geographical, contained in them, form not a hundreth part of the whole. Maps, which are the true vehicles of geographical knowledge, are sometimes, but not always, interspersed, and answer the same purpose in these as in works merely historical or statistical.

Such compilers may, indeed, plead that historical and political information is of more value than a dry detail of the heights and breadths of mountains and rivers, and that the latter is, in truth, useful merely as tending to illustrate and methodize the former. This remark is undoubtedly just, but it by no means obviates the absurdity of calling different things by the same name, or of including, for instance, a specimen of the German language, a sketch of the French revolution, a statement of the revenues of Great-Britain, or a catalogue of plants and quadrupeds, in a work that calls itself "A System of Geography."

These remarks are applicable to all the numerous systems, *Grammars*, Dictionaries, and *Gazetteers* which have lately appeared. The information which each compiler professes to give is of the same hotch-potch and motley kind, sometimes arranged according to local position, when the book is usually called "A Grammar;" and sometimes arranged alphabetically, when it commonly takes the name of "Gazetteer." The latter method, though useful to the occasional inquirer, is, in itself, arbitrary and capricious. The former may be styled a geographical arrangement; but so far as it relates to any thing but subjects strictly geographical, is scarcely less vague and arbitrary than the other.

The work before us is a miscellaneous account of the inhabitants and productions of the earth, arranged in the alphabetical order of the names of the places which they occupy. It is needless to dwell on the utility of such collections to the general reader. As a work to which occasional reference may be made, every one has experienced the advantage of having a work like this at hand. On subjects of this kind, in which changes are continually occurring, and knowledge constantly advancing, it is to be expected that the latest compilation will generally be the best. This is one of the amplest compilations in this form we have met with; and from the examination which we have been able to give it, the writer appears not less industrious than those who have preceded him in the same path. Works of this kind, unless undertaken by minds of uncommon ingenuity and force, must be expected to be little more than transcripts of each other, every new editor correcting some of the errors, and somewhat enlarging the catalogue, of his predecessor.

The principal novelty we meet with in this work is the computation of the longitude of places from the meridian of Philadelphia. It may be some improvement in the construction of maps and tables, to mark some central or principal spot as the meridian to all places within the same country or district, but there is no particular advantage in making the chief place in our native country a meridian for all places on the globe. On the contrary, as usage has hitherto assigned that honour to Greenwich or Ferro, it seems most proper to retain them. Nautical purposes require an uniformity in this respect. At any rate, if Philadelphia be thought worthy of that honour, why not give the old in addition to the new statements of the longitudes?

There occasionally occur some harmless instances of national prepossessions. Ireland receives particular attention from the author, and he is not slow to assert its honour when he thinks it insulted by former compilers. We could not but smile at the following remarks, which seem to have been suggested by the terms in which the article Aghrim is introduced in the Encyclopædia Britannica.

"Aghrim, a small village of Galway county, Ireland, well known in history for the decisive battle fought there, and at Kilcomodon Hill, the 12th of July, 1691, between General Ginckle, and M. St. Ruth, the commanders of the English and Irish forces; of the English 600 were slain, and of the Irish and French forces about 7,000, with their General. The

latter consisted of 25,000 men, whereas the English only about 18,000; although the disproportion be considerable, we ought not to be surprised that victory crowned the arms of the English; for, it is a well known fact, that a large portion of the Irish troops knew not how to handle a firelock. People, animated by religious enthusiasm, forsook their spades, &c. in the mountains and other parts, and flocked to James's standard. That such a body of men would make a stand against a regular and well disciplined army, is a thing rarely met with in history; but the Irish did more, they fought bravely, and had it not been for a trifling circumstance, which too frequently determines the fate of a battle, they would have gained the victory. Some English writers speak highly of the bravery of their countrymen in this action—but the bravery of Englishmen does not exceed the common standard. Had Englishmen, like the Lacedemonians, performed the wonders of Thermopyle, or some of those heroic actions recorded in the history of the gallant Swiss, when shaking off the Austrian yoke, then might their countrymen give vent to the extravagance of their joy, and exclaim, brave soldiers! invincible heroes!"

The author seems willing to profit by every opportunity of finding error or folly in the work of Dr. Morse. He is anxious to vindicate the honour of the middle and southern states, which he thinks have been treated with unmerited contempt by the New-England geographer. This aversion to his rival sometimes shows itself unseasonably, and absurdly, as may be seen in his remarks under the article "Barbadoes."

His sneers and insinuations, so plentifully dispersed throughout his work, seem to flow from the spirit of petty rivalship and personal enmity, rather than from the love of truth and justice; and the liberal and candid reader must be disgusted with the manner in which he has expressed his dissatisfaction.

In his style, Mr. S. is neither studious in the choice of his words, nor careful in their arrangement. But the typographical errors are far more numerous and inexcusable than the negligences of the author.

A brief account of the greater and lesser circles of the sphere; of the positions of the sphere, and of the solar system in general, form the introduction to the work, which we shall dismiss with observing, that it is distinguished by no peculiar excellence above others of the same nature already in the possession of the public.

ARTICLE IV.

The History of the District of Maine. *By* James Sullivan. 8vo. pp. 419. *Boston.* Thomas & Andrews. 1795.

THIS performance is the production of a man not destitute of talents, but often betraying the want of the advantages of an early education. Whoever expects to find a regular and well connected series of important and useful facts arranged in chronological order, interspersed with judicious reflections, and related in a classical and dignified style, will be disappointed. The work more resembles the disjointed materials than the well adjusted parts of a regular history.

The 1st and 2d chapters contain a geographical description of the country, and an account of the climate, soil, productions; and of the bays, capes, harbours and rivers. It may be proper here to observe, that as the map prefixed was made previous to the settlement of the controversy respecting the river *St. Croix*, by the Commissioners under the fifth article of the treaty of November, 1794, the boundary line between the United States and New-Brunswick is laid down according to the claim of the former. The Commissioners, after a long and laborious investigation of the facts, were unanimous in opinion that the northern branch of the *Scudiac* is the river intended in the treaty, under the name of *St. Croix*, and that its mouth was at Ives's Point; thereby deciding in favour of the line claimed by the British government.

In the third chapter the author proceeds to relate the arrival and progress of the English and French emigrants, in this part of America, from the year 1495 to 1614. The following letter from one of the earliest settlers to his sovereign, Henry VIII. is inserted as a curiosity.

"Please your honourable grace, to hear of your servant, John Rutt, with all his company, here in good health; thanks be to God, and your grace's ship, the Mary of Guilford. And if it please your honourable grace, we ran our course to the northward, till we came into 53 degrees: and there we found many great islands of ice, and deep water. We found no sounding; and then we durst go no further to the northward, in fear of more ice; and then we cast about to the southward,

and within four days we had a hundred and fifty fathom: and then we come into 52 degrees, and fell in with the main land; and within ten leagues of the main land we met a great island of ice, and come hard by her, for it was standing in deep waters; and so we went in with the Cape De Bar, a great harbour, and many small islands, and a great fresh river going up far into the main land; and the main land all wilderness and mountains, and woods, and no natural ground, but all moss, and no people in these parts: and in the woods we found the footings of divers great beasts, but we saw none in ten leagues.

"And please your honourable grace, the Sampson and we kept company all the way till within two days before we met with all the islands of ice. That was the first day of July, at night: and there arose a great and marvellous storm, and much foul weather.

"I trust in almighty Jesu to hear good tidings of her. The 3d day of August we entered into a good harbour, called Saint John's.

"And thus Jesu save and keep your grace, and all your honourable race.

"The 3d day of August, written in haste, 1527, by your servant JOHN RUTT."

On the manners of the natives (chap. 5) the author has thrown together, without method, some observations not unworthy of notice. He seems disposed, on the whole, to invalidate the unfavourable representations made by some writers with regard to their treatment of females, of the aged, and of captives. He adopts the old opinion, that the Indians are naturally without beards, and thinks that those "who have testified to their plucking it out by the roots, speak rather from conjecture than from facts under their own observation." He positively asserts that "there never has been found in the furniture of a *savages' camp* an instrument adapted to the use of plucking out the beard." We are surprised that Mr. Sullivan has never fallen in company with some one of the many persons who have seen not only this instrument itself, a sort of tweezers, but the savage in the very act of using it.

Mr. S. discusses (chap. 6) the question of right in the European sovereigns to grant lands to the first settlers, but it seems rather a display of an imaginary dexterity in controversy than an attempt to deduce any valuable consequences either in politics or morals. For though he sets out with asserting (p. 109) that "the question whether the sovereigns of Europe had a right to grant the lands in America can never be answered in the affir-

mative with any pretensions to justice and reason," yet he concludes (p. 127) with an acknowledgment not easily reconcileable with this proposition. "If individuals," says he, "who, from the nature of things, and from the exigences of their own circumstances, were obliged to leave a country filled with inhabitants, and to seek a subsistence from such parts of the earth as were useless to the human race, *had come into the country promiscuously, without a power to whom they were answerable for their conduct*, and which, while it defended their several possessions against the invasions of each, could superintend their conduct, *they would have been unable to have proceeded in their settlements.* The first settlers from each European nation, *being united in one sovereign power, and coming to America under the idea of a government, had an advantage which a promiscuous unassociated multitude could not possess. The grants then from the several princes of Europe served to unite the subjects of each under the laws of their parent state, and to protect them against the invasions and hostile combinations of each.*"

Again (p. 136.) "The sovereigns of nations have always claimed a dominion over their subjects, even when they have been without the realm: and as this continent was discovered about the same time by the Spaniards, the French, the English and the Dutch, the distinction between the subjects of each, in this country, would have been lost, if they had not been severally governed by the laws of their several states. The subjects of the English King would have very soon got into deadly contentions amongst themselves, if there had not been laws to govern them. The bounds and limits of their titles were *indispensibly necessary* to a state of civil government; and such boundaries and limits *necessarily* led the settlers to acknowledge a certain superintending power; from which, by a legal fiction, appurtenant to royal prerogatives, they supposed they drew their titles."

If, as the author seems to think, these grants from the sovereign were *indispensibly necessary* to the preservation and peace of the first colonists, it is of little purpose to deny the right to make such grants to a people compelled "by the nature of things, and the exigences of circumstances," to emigrate.

In page 129 is exhibited the same vague and unprofitable kind of discussion respecting the right of the natives to dispose of the soil. "There may be as many objections against *the right of the natives* to sell lands in America

as there are against that of the Europeans." "Neither the Europeans *or* [nor] the savages had a right to sell the lands, and yet the titles are fairly and regularly *derived*," which position Mr. S. lays claim to as "*a new opinion.*"

"In subduing," he observes (p. 134), "a sea animal, those who are engaged in the business do not gain a property in the waters *which they pass upon;* nor do the savages, while they traverse the wilds in the chase for subsistence, *gain a property in the soil they pass over.*" "As the savages (p. 135) had no ideas of a permanent use and improvement of the soil, *or* [nor] ever had a personal or individual right in it; *or* [nor] ever, by annexing their labour to it, rendered it better, or more apt for the use of man, I am led to conclude that *they had no more property in the soil on which they hunted than they had in the waters in which they fished.*" Yet it is admitted (p. 137) that the grants from the savages took away a pretext for war, and that, "had the first planters in North-America seized upon the wilderness here as upon unappropriated and vacant lands, they *would have been obliged to enter into a compact with the savages, that they should enjoy their possession without interruption.*"

Again (p. 62), it is said, "The continent, when the Europeans found it was in the *quiet possession* of a part of the human race; *though this was but a rude occupancy*, by no means tending to the increase of mankind, &c. yet the sovereigns of Europe, as such, *had nothing to do with it.* To quiet the *feelings* of conscience, and to preserve the *appearance of justice*, there *was a necessity of raising a false system of morals, pretendingly on divine revelation.*" But in p. 137 he affirms, that the first settlers "*held their titles by a right of prior occupancy;* a title originated by taking the land at first *as the gift of God to man*, as soil which had never been appropriated to the use it was created for, until an European possessed it."

The substance of all this seems to be—that the natives had no property in the soil, but yet that titles were derived from them—that though the natives had no such *property*, yet that they had such a *rude occupancy* of it as certainly to preclude strangers from having any thing to do with it—that the Europeans acquired a *just* title by taking possession, *as the gift of God to man*, but that *it was necessary* to raise a false system of morals, in order to quiet the *feelings* of conscience, and to preserve the appearance of *justice*, in thus taking possession of this *gift of God.* Our author seems to be aware of the first contradiction, for he afterwards professes to discuss the question, "*If the savages had no property in the soil, how can*

he people of America derive titles from them?" This question, indeed, presents no small embarrassment to a common mind, since it is difficult to conceive that the savages had and had not a title at the same time. The answer of our author (p. 135) is, that "The purchases were always of a sachem, or of some one who pretended to that dignity of character. And that if the Indians made a chief for the purpose of leading them in war, and to declare when a war should begin, and when it should end, and to determine on the causes of war, and on the motives to peace, it would by no means follow that he should have power to sell their lands. The Indian conveyances clearly amounted to nothing more than a contract, made by the chief, on consent of his tribe, that the savages should not make war on the white people for taking lands to a certain extent into possession. In this way we may account for one sachem's selling the same tract to several different purchasers; for if the deed was only an agreement upon peace and friendship, *there could, in the Indian's view, be no immorality* in making the contract with *as many* as might appear to demand it. And a wish in some of the savages to trade with the white people, and to learn the art of agriculture, might be a principal motive." This mode of deducing a title is somewhat singular.

In relating the political transactions of the district, the author (chap. 8) has collected from several older narratives, a variety of particulars respecting the ancient and principal towns, to each of which he has appropriated a certain section. Disputes about the meaning or validity of adverse titles and jarring patents—contests with the Indians and with the French colonists—form the chief subject of this part of his book. This narrative will be interesting to the inhabitants of the district, and is, in some degree, instructive to the general reader. It might, however, have been rendered more useful and agreeable by a more judicious selection and arrangement of facts. It seems to be of little importance to know, that "in 1646 Robert Sankey was appointed provost marshall, Nicholas Frost constable of Piscataquæ, Michael Miller constable of Casco, and John Wilkin constable of Black Point;" or that "The savages took a bible of Baxter's, and carried it about half a mile, where it lay all winter, and is now in the town of Arundel, in *good order*." What a marvellous book this of Baxter's must be! Now we are told that *Benython was taxed* £3! and now that *Robert Sankey had to pay* 20s.! here that the *Indians killed a calf or two!* there that *John Watts carried bricks to Medford!* Those who have read Hubbard's Indian Wars, Winthrop's

Journal, or the Wars of King Philip, will easily discover the source of this minuteness. The concluding chapter (9) professes to discuss the revolutions of government which have taken place within the district: it consists principally of details of ancient controversies between rival patents and clashing jurisdictions.

The following sentence may serve as an additional specimen of our author's extreme carelessness and obscure mode of writing. "The people of South-America are not so black as those who are in Canada: the former are of a *reddish brown* colour, but the latter as black as the *lighter coloured* African, and have but a very little of the *red mixed* in their countenance." Of what colour are these people?—We select the following as a sample of Mr. S.'s descriptive talents. "The Greenlanders and Esquimaux are both alike intrepid in their attacks on the *whale*, on the *sea-dog*, and on other animals inhabiting the waters of their coasts; but the *whale* frequently gives many of them at once, with a stroke of his tail, to the *multitude* which, under his *monstrous shadow*, seek their food *among the fragments of his board.*" "No keen ambition fires their breasts, urging them to conquest and dominion; or prompts them to the destruction of their own species. Perhaps the presence of a favourite female may urge the *enamoured* Esquimaux to *feats* of *valorous activity* against—a SEA-DOG!"

On the whole, it can hardly be admitted that the present volume merits a conspicuous place among the historical writings of our country. From carelessness and haste, or a want of an adequate knowledge of the force of words and the structure of language, there is, throughout, great obscurity in the style, and the writer is occasionally betrayed into absurdities which excite the smile of the reader. Books generally read, and whose duration is intended to be lasting, ought to be free from vulgarisms and unauthorised modes of expression. The author, in his dedication, makes some apology for his negligence of style. "Having," he observes, "not assumed this task from mercenary views, or with an ambitious desire to obtain the reputation of an author, and being constantly under the pressure of many public and private avocations, I have not paid much attention to the dress in which the history is introduced to the public. I have endeavoured to render it intelligible and useful."

We cannot but think that the ambition of being considered a correct and elegant writer is not only natural to an author, but laudable, and by no means inconsistent with the purpose

of utility. Had this work possessed that lucid order, that clear developement of facts and opinions, which the public has a right to expect in an history, they might have been disposed to grant some indulgence in the less important article of style.

The *Appendix* contains the original grant of the Province of Maine, and subsequent ordinances made by Ferdinando Gorges, with some other documents.

ARTICLE V.

Poems by St. John Honeywood, *A. M. with some Pieces in Prose. Foolscap* 8vo. pp. 159. *New-York.* T. *and* J. Swords. 1801.

As the genius and character of Mr. Honeywood are not extensively known, the following biographical sketch, quoted from the preface to this volume, will not be unacceptable.

"St. John Honeywood was born at Leicester, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His father was a respectable physician in that place. At the age of twelve years our poet had the misfortune to lose his parents. An orphan, destitute of patrimony, he was greatly indebted to the generosity of individuals for the education he received.

"At a Latin school, then of some celebrity at Lebanon, in the State of Connecticut, under the care of Mr. Tisdale, he was taught those rudiments of learning which are a necessary preparation for an admission to Yale College. Soon after entering that seminary he became the distinguished favourite of the President, Dr. Stiles, into whose house, during his residence at New-Haven, he was received with parental kindness.

"After completing his collegiate studies with great honour to himself, he quitted New-England, and went to reside at Schenectady, in the State of New-York, where he continued about two years, as preceptor to an academy. From thence he removed to Albany, and commenced the study of the law in the office of Peter W. Yates, Esq. with whom he pursued his legal studies for two years; at the expiration of which time, having been admitted to the bar, he went to Salem, in the county of Washington, where he practised in his profession for ten years with unblemished reputation. He was made

a Master in Chancery, which office he resigned on being appointed, by the Governor and Council, Clerk of the County.

"He was chosen one of the Electors of the President of the United States when Mr. Adams became the successor of Washington; on which occasion he composed the verses on the *resignation* of the latter.

"His situation had now become comparatively opulent; and had his life been prolonged, he would have enjoyed an ample competence for one so disposed to retirement, and so moderate in his desire of wealth.

"An hereditary gout, and a general debility, occasioned, probably, by a too sedentary life, were the ostensible causes of his early death. He died at his house in *Salem*, on the 1st of September, 1798, in the 34th year of his age, justly and universally regretted by his friends and numerous acquaintance. He married, about ten years before, the daughter of Colonel Mosely, of *Westfield*, in *Massachusetts*, but had no children.

"The talents of Mr. Honeywood as a painter were not less than those he possessed as a poet. His favourite style was caricature, and he would have been no unsuccessful imitator of Hogarth. Many of his historical sketches display great felicity and judgment. His design and execution are the more to be admired, as he never received any instruction in the art, and had no opportunity to behold or study the works of a master.

"He had all that eccentricity which is supposed to characterize strong genius. With a fund of genuine humour, and a lively and rapid conception, his great singularity of manners rendered him more interesting to his friends and acquaintance, to whom his society was an unfailing source of amusement and instruction. His mind was stored with sound learning and various knowledge; and possessed of an excellent heart, the most acute sensibility, a high sense of honour, and incorruptible integrity, he was fitted to be the delight of his associates."

Whether the present publication will procure for our author the honours of posthumous renown, is a question not reserved for our decision. We venture, however, to remark, that as our country has not yet produced a poet on whom the title of *classic* has been conferred by general concurrence, it will not be thought derogatory to the genius of Mr. H. to question his claim to that distinguished appellation. The subjects of his verse represent him as an occasional poet, who wrote from

incidental reflection, principally excited by local events, temporary circumstances, or political transactions. His muse appears but seldom to have haunted the wilds of Fiction or of Fancy, and we discover only a few vestiges of her rambles through the flowery walks of rural nature. The contents of the present volume are miscellaneous, in which the lover of descriptive poetry will not find an ample repast, and those who pant for the languishing strains of pathos and of love, must not expect very abundant gratification.

From this negative description we pass to an inquiry into the positive qualities of Mr. H.'s poetry. In his lines on Washington we find much manly and patriotic sentiment, conveyed in numbers energetic and harmonious. They begin with an ingenious simile.

> " As the rude Zemblian views, with anxious eyes,
> The sun fast rolling from his wint'ry skies,
> While gathering clouds the shaded vault deform,
> And hollow winds announce th' impending storm,
> His anguish'd soul recoils, with wild affright,
> From the drear horrors of the tedious night:
> Such fears alarm'd, such gloom o'ercast each mind,
> When Washington his sacred trust resign'd."

The following apostrophe in favour of Mr. Adams, whatever difference of opinion there may now be as to the correctness of the portrait, will give an idea of Mr. H.'s poetical talents.

> " Is there a man, thro' thrice ten years well tried,
> Who ne'er has crouch'd, or meanly chang'd his side?
> Ardent and foremost in his country's cause,
> The friend of order and of equal laws,
> Who views with stern contempt a clamorous throng,
> Strife in their heart, and freedom on their tongue;
> A whiffling tribe, who, at their leader's nod,
> Would sell their souls, their country or their God;
> Who, had they liv'd in Jove's impartial reign,
> Had join'd the Giants, and enthron'd a Paine!
> Is there a man in whose capacious mind
> A Murray, Locke, and Chatham live combin'd,
> Who joins to all that men or books have taught,
> The fire of genius and the force of thought?
> Is there a man, who in these changeful days,
> Unaw'd by censure, unallur'd by praise,
> True to his aim, and obstinately good,
> While factions rag'd, unmov'd as Atlas stood:
> Whose ancient morals stoics might revere,
> And Rome, reviv'd, behold her Censor here:
> Such as ere Grecian spoils her temples grac'd,
> And solid virtue sunk to Attic taste?

Should such a man preside, the land were blest—
Advert your eyes, and Adams stands confest.
Fir'd at the name enraptured Fancy flies,
Old Time rolls back, and years long past arise,
To memory fresh unfolds a solemn scene;
Columbia's sires in high divan convene,
Of dread concerns commission'd to consult,
And chains or empire wait the grand result:
Full in the front I see the patriot stand,
All fire his eye, all energy his hand;
Such graceful majesty round Tully shone,
When Rome's proud master trembled on his throne."

The lighter pieces of Mr. H. are enlivened by a considerable portion of wit. The *Mob-Call*, *Darby and Joan*, *Il faut de l'Argent*, *Speech of a Democratic Lion*, *Congress Duellists*, *&c. &c.* are the sallies of a sprightly genius, indulging itself in humorous sarcasm and sportive irony.

In the *Address to the Citizen Adet*, the genius of our poet appears to the greatest advantage. The sentiments are patriotic and spirited, and the versification vigorous and smooth. The following passage will not be read without elevated emotions.

" At that dread crisis, when, o'er Concord's plain,
Degenerate Percy march'd his veteran train,
Our sturdy swains his veteran train repell'd,
And urg'd them home inglorious from the field.
Lo! Freedom, bending o'er her Warren's tomb,
Points to his spirit, flitting thro' the gloom;
For oft, at eve, he hovers round that height
Where next the Briton tried our arms in fight.
Thy life-warm tints, O Trumbull, best pourtray
The splendid horrors of that fatal day;
The noon-tide sun, half glimmering thro' the skies,
Where pitchy clouds, convolv'd in blaze, arise,
The sinking spire which crackling flames entwine,
The proud parade, the slow advancing line.
Thrice fled the Britons, to the main repell'd,
And thrice were forc'd, reluctant, to the field;
Nor theirs the chance to gain the blood-drench'd height
Till half their choicest warriors sunk in night."

In the wide range of poetical scenery we do not often meet with a more interesting groupe of images than the following lines display:

" Yet war we deprecate; too well we know
From that curst source what floods of sorrow flow;
Fast by the laurel wreath the cypress twines,
And the heart sickens while the victor shines.
Where now the hamlet smoulders in the dust,
New spires may rise more splendid than the first;

Exhausted wealth brisk commerce may restore;
The fosse may fill, the mound with grass grow o'er;
Where armies fought may yellow harvests wave,
And crops luxuriant hide the soldier's grave:
This time effects, nor boots it to complain,
Where time can mend, or industry regain.
But who shall pierce the cheerless realms of gloom,
And rouse the sleeping warrior from his tomb?
Who to the widow'd heart shall comfort speak,
And with fresh roses flush the faded cheek;
To the lorn maid her slaughter'd swain restore,
And bid th' unshelter'd orphan weep no more?"

The following is a very beautiful apostrophe to Truth:

" O Truth divine, thou choicest gift of God!
Man's guide and solace in this drear abode!
Plain was thy garb, and lowly was thy mein,
When usher'd by the spotless Nazarene:
From shouting crowds and pageantry he fled
To the lone desert or the pauper's shed;
There taught his humble followers to despise
All that the proud affect or worldlings prize;
Freely he gave to man's repentant race
The peerless treasures of his sovereign grace;
Yet bade no fires descend, no thunders roll,
To force his bounty on the wayward soul.
Join, then, celestial Truth, the glad acclaim;
Crush'd is the proud usurper of thy name,
Who first with blood thy snow-white robes distain'd,
And with vain pomp thy holy rites profan'd."

Although our bard has not given much indulgence to his muse in the descriptive strain, yet, in one instance, he shows himself to be no stranger to the art of presenting to the imagination the beauties of nature in her most interesting attitudes.

" Nor think, because no bard of tuneful tongue
The Mohawk or our Hudson yet have sung,
That Roman Tiber, or Britannia's Thames,
Survey more beauties than our silver streams.
Swoln with the gifts of tributary snows,
From the cold north majestic Hudson flows
O'er many a trackless wild, yet views with pride
Three cities rising on his verdant side:
For here Albania's gothic towers are spread,
There infant Hudson rears her rival head;
Here, where the streams uniting greet the Sound,
Proud York appears with airy turrets crown'd.
Mark! from the west, how in romantic maze,
By groves and flowery lawns, the Mohawk strays;
Gently in silent modesty she flows,
And scarce a breeze disturbs the sweet repose;
Not clearer waves by Hartford's ville are seen,
Nor tread her blooming nymphs a softer green;

Till where abrupt infuriate Cohoes roars,
Down the vast rock his thundering torrent pours;
Mad on himself the thunders roll again,
Shake the dark grove and deafen all the plain."

The essay on *Crimes and Punishments* appears to be the most laboured of Mr. H.'s performances. It contains many just and liberal sentiments, though few, perhaps, that will be thought original. The following extract is a handsome specimen of its composition.

"The sage of Milan led the virtuous choir,
To them sublime he strung the tuneful lyre:
Of laws, of crimes and punishments he sung,
And on his glowing lips persuasion hung:
From Reason's source each inference just he drew,
While truths fresh polish'd struck the mind as new:
Full in the front, in vestal robes array'd
The holy form of Justice stood display'd:
Firm was her eye, not vengeful, though severe,
And e'er she frown'd she check'd the starting tear.
A sister form, of more benignant face,
Celestial Mercy, held the second place;
Her hands outspread, in suppliant guise she stood,
And oft with eloquence resistless sued."

The pieces in *prose*, contained in the *Appendix*, are well written, and the two last will be found entertaining. It may not prove unamusing to many readers who have never attended the *pedestrian* worship of the Shaking Quakers, to peruse an extract from Mr. H.'s account of this whimsical sect, who seem to have borrowed their religious *exercise* from the ancient *Salii*, and fancy that the pleasantest mode of gaining heaven is to

"Trip it nimbly as they go,
On the light fantastic toe."

"I left them, and was returning full of disappointment and disgust, when, passing by another of their houses, a confused noise from within roused my attention; and then I first beheld the mystic dance: five or six women were whirling round on the floor with a velocity almost inconceivable. One of them continued this exercise, unabated, for the space of thirty minutes, without any appearance of dizziness or extraordinary fatigue. It is the province of the physician to determine what long use and repeated trials may effect. Almost every one, I believe, upon whirling round a few times, will find himself affected with extraordinary dizziness, and conclude it morally impossible to continue the motion for any considerable length of time.

"While these were at this frantic exercise, my attention was drawn, by a very lamentable groan, to an opposite part of the room. Here stands an emaciated figure rolling up his eyes to heaven, his countenance distorted, bosom heaving; while his hands, smiting his breast, presented the picture of the most exquisite woe. To this succeeds a gentle but general tremour —it increases—it becomes violent—and at once he mingles with the whirling throng. The classical reader may form a lively idea from the description of the *Sybil* at *Cumæ*. (Virg. Æn. lib. vi. 47—51.)

"The last summer, upon another excursion, I found forty or fifty dancing at once. The men were whirling round at one part of the room, and the women at the other. The room was much crowded, and their eye-balls so distorted that it was impossible for them to see; yet the holy ranks were not seen to break, nor the sexes to mingle. As the intense heat of the day had obliged the men to divest themselves of a great part of their clothing, and the women were mostly dressed in white, they suggested the idea of a throng of discontented ghosts hovering round the gloomy shores of the Stygian lake, or a council of Lapland hags performing their nocturnal orgies on enchanted ground. How inimitably had a Shakspeare's pen described them! how improved upon each pale and haggard visage! for the iron hand of Superstition furrowed every cheek, and impressed each feature with a *memento mori!*

"The air of their music has a very singular effect: it is wild, but not disagreeable: something like this is the song of the American savage: such might probably have been the *Io Bacche* of the ancients; or such the ruder ditty of the Erse. This song they call, in their blasphemous cant, the song of Moses and the Lamb: it is, indeed, unintelligible.

> "And can the frenzy of this trembling throng,
> The frantic gestures, that unmeaning song,
> Please the just God—the God to whom, in vain,
> We offer'd hecatombs of victims slain?
> Should *Thureau* presents on his altars smoke,
> Say, would his hand delay th' avenging stroke?
> The heart, tenacious of the secret given,
> The modest prayer, which silence wafts to heaven,
> The eye, which views with pity the distress'd,
> These best can serve him, these can please him best."

This volume is printed in a style of superior elegance and correctness, and is another proof of the attention of the publishers to the improvement of their most useful art.

ARTICLE VI.

Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the Year 1800. 8vo. pp. 280. S. Hall. *Boston.* 1801.

IN the review* of the 'Collections' of this respectable association, for the year 1799, some account was given of the origin of the society; and the learning and industry of its members were deservedly commended. Pursuing the same path of honourable research, they have presented the public with another volume, the contents of which, though less copious and diversified than the former, will be found useful to the historian, and instructive to the general reader. We shall exhibit the several pieces in their order.

1. *The history of Cambridge. By Abiel Holmes, A. M. a member of the society.*

This tract, of about seventy pages, contains a topographical description of Cambridge, an account of the first settlement of the town in 1631, and of its subsequent progress to the present time, with a biographical sketch of the ministers of the gospel who have officiated in that place during that period. As in most local histories, there are many minute circumstances related which are interesting only to the inhabitants of the place. The biographical part will be pleasing to many readers, and the whole will be thought not undeserving the attention of the future historian of Massachusetts.—The style of the narration is plain and perspicuous.

2. *A review of the military operations in North-America, from the commencement of the French hostilities on the frontiers of Virginia,* 1753, *to the surrender of Oswego, on the* 14*th August,* 1756. *In a letter to a nobleman.*

This letter, which occupies a large portion of the present volume (p. 67—163), is said to be the production of the late Governor LIVINGSTON, of New-Jersey, and his friends W. SMITH and SCOTT, of New-York. It is a well written and valuable paper, and will be found to throw considerable light on the transactions of one of the most interesting periods of our colonial history. To the diligent and impartial narrator of events it must be a very curious and useful document, as

* Monthly Magazine and American Review, vol. iii. p. 42.

among the earlier records of our history it is not easy to find the same sagacity and knowledge, combined with equal ease, spirit and correctness.

The following extract, while it affords a specimen of the writer's manner, may not be unacceptable to the generality of our readers.

"The Congress having been opened on the 18th of June, were ready to treat with the Six Nations; and on the 29th, after settling disputes between the commissioners concerning rank and precedence, Mr. De Lancey, the Lieutenant-Governor of New-York, addressed himself in a speech to the Indians.

"The treaty was conducted with great solemnity. The Indians appeared well pleased with the presents from the several governments; which, compared to former donations, amounted to an immense value: but, in their answer, recriminated upon us the desertion of our fort at Saratoga the last war; lamented the defenceless condition of our frontier city of Albany; and extolled the better conduct of the French, in fortifying and maintaining their garrisons.

"The Indians being dismissed, the conferences were continued till the 11th of July. The commissioners were, both for abilities and fortune, some of the most considerable men in North-America. The speakers, however, were not many; but of those who spoke, some delivered themselves with singular energy and eloquence. All were inflamed with a patriot spirit, and the debates were nervous and pathetic. This assembly, my Lord, might very properly be compared to one of the ancient Greek conventions, for supporting their expiring liberty against the power of the Persian empire, or that Lewis of Greece, Philip of Macedon. In the conclusion, a plan was concerted for a general union of the British colonies, and creating a common fund to defray all military expenses, and a representation of their present state drawn up, which were agreed to be laid before the king's ministers. Some of the governments have nevertheless declared themselves averse to this scheme, though approved, at the time, by every member of the congress except Mr. De Lancey. Unaccountable was the conduct of this gentleman to several of the provincial deputies. But those who were best acquainted with his character and love of sway, ascribed his aversion from the plan to an apprehension, that should the same take place, the supreme officer, who, agreeably to it, was to preside in the grand council of deputies from the respective colonies, would most probably be the governor of the Massachusetts-Bay; an ap-

prehension which repressed his own aspiring views, and, it was imagined, stung him with unspeakable chagrin.

"As the Lieutenant-Governor will appear, in the course of this letter, to bear a principal part in our public transactions, it will be necessary, before I proceed any farther, to present your Lordship with his picture at full length. Without an intimate knowledge of that gentleman's history and genius, it will be impossible to comprehend his conduct, or trace his actions to their genuine source.

"He is the eldest branch of one of the first families in the province. His father, a French refugee, a gentleman of distinguished rank in this city, and who here acquired a large fortune, sent him for his education to the University of Cambridge. He was a youth of prompt parts, and made a considerable progress in learning, especially in the classics. In the year 1729, he was, by Governor Montgomery's recommendation, created one of his Majesty's Council of New-York; but never engaged the public attention till the time of Mr. Cosby. He became then very famous. With this Governor he took part in most or all of his measures; measures extremely arbitrary, and productive of an administration odious and turbulent. Cosby, in return for his ministerial services, loaded him with favours. Deposing Chief Justice Morris (the main obstacle to his perilous projects), he raised him to the first seat on the bench.* But though his excellency had the disposition of offices, he could by no means delegate the affections of the people. Accordingly, our politician was equally honoured and despised. He enjoyed the smiles of the Governor, which loaded him with the curses of the people; was caressed by the former, and by the latter abhorred. Cosby leaving a successor capable of governing without a prompter, the Chief Justice found it necessary to deface the memory of his former conduct by cultivating the arts of popularity. Mr. Clarke, who succeeded,† being perfectly master of our constitution, a gentleman of experience and penetration, and intimately acquainted with the temper of the people, in a short time reconciled all parties; and, by restoring the public tranquillity, rendered Mr. De Lancey's plodding abilities utterly useless. Hence he was at

* "Mr. De Lancey was not educated to the law; but having spent some time, after his return from England, in the study of that science, Governor Montgomery appointed him second judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature."

† "In March, 1736."

full leisure to court the populace. Suddenly he became transformed into a patriot; and, strange to relate! without a single act of patriotism. His uncommon vivacity, with the semblance of affability and ease; his adroitness at a jest, with a show of condescension to his inferiors, wonderfully facilitated his progress. These plausible arts, together with his influence as Chief Justice, and a vast personal estate at use, all conspired to secure his popular triumph. To establish such an undue power, and amazing influence, would, in a Grecian commonwealth, have exposed a man of less ambition and better principles to the ostracism. Mr. Clarke being superseded by Governor Clinton,* Mr. De Lancey was presented with a fresh opportunity for the exhibition of his political genius. Mr. Clinton, a gentleman of but indifferent parts, wholly resigned himself into his hands. Contenting himself with the title and salary of Governor, he left the sole direction of affairs to his minister, who, by virtue of his late acquired omnipotence with the assembly, carried all his points, and even endeared him to the people. This intimacy subsisted no longer than it was found conducive to his designs. Having obtained from Mr. Clinton a new commission for his office of Chief Justice *during good behaviour*, and flattering himself with the hopes of another appointing him Lieutenant-Governor, through the interest of his friends in England, he cared not how soon his excellency abdicated the province, nor how tempestuous he rendered his administration; and was, therefore, prepared for an open rupture. He no sooner thought himself capable of acting independently of the Governor, than, like Sixtus Quintus, who threw aside his crutches the moment of his exaltation to the popedom, he put off all that humble devotion by which he had so fatally deceived his too credulous master, and openly set himself at defiance against him. Now he began to dictate rather than advise; and, instead of Sejanus, chose to be Tiberius himself. Dining one day with Mr. Clinton, and insisting upon some favourite point with great imperiousness, the Governor, who had hitherto very cordially suffered himself to be led, refused, on this occasion, to be driven. The Chief Justice then arose and left him, declaring, with an oath, he would make his administration uneasy for the future: His excellency replied, he might do his worst. Thus they parted, nor were ever afterwards reconciled. This breach gave rise to the contentions which so unhappily em-

* "Mr. Clinton arrived as Governor 22d September, 1743."

broiled our provincial affairs during the remainder of his administration. The assembly were instantly inflamed. He who before had been able to make them connive at very unjustifiable steps, could at once stir up an opposition to the most unexceptionable measures. Remonstrances, warm and virulent, were now drawn up, unworthy their own dignity to offer, and replete with the grossest language, to his majesty's representative. Thus was formed against Mr. Clinton a powerful party, which ceased not, while he continued at the helm, to harass and perplex him. To such an exorbitant length did they carry their opposition, as to throw off the restraint of humanity: They had even recourse to force and violence. Nay, a partisan of the Chief Justice, in defiance of the sacred rights of the magistracy and the law, to show his resentment against Mr. Clinton and his adherents, assaulted the mayor, whipped the sheriff, damned the Governor, and stabbed his physician. My Lord, we became the sport and contempt of our neighbours; and it is beyond contradiction, that Mr. De Lancey, by blowing up the coals of contention, did the province more injury than he will be ever able to repair. Nor is there any reason to doubt, that the enormous power of this gentleman, and the ferment raised against Mr. Clinton, occasioned the 39th article of the king's instructions to Sir Danvers Osborn, which appears purposely calculated to render our future Governors independent on his influence over the assembly: for a law indefinite, making provision for the salary allowed by the king to his Governors, and competent salaries to all judges, justices, and other necessary officers and ministers of government; such a law, I say, would effectually render a Governor independent of the assembly, and, consequently, of any undue influence in it. Nor without such independence, or an abridgment of Mr. De Lancey's power, by reducing him to his primitive private station, do I see any probability of the extinction of that party spirit which hath so long disturbed the tranquillity and injured the public weal of the colony. Mr. Clinton, being superseded by Sir Danvers Osborn,* a gentleman of the most amiable moral character, retired into the country, from whence he proposed to embark for Great-Britain. The Chief Justice, notwithstanding his long declared enmity, and unwearied industry to embarrass his administration, had now—the humility shall I call it?—to dispatch a messenger to him, with design, if pos-

* "Sir Danvers Osborn arrived at New-York the 7th of October, 1753."

sible, to procure an accommodation, in order to secure his favour in England, when he could no longer distress him in America. It were difficult to determine whether this required a higher degree of assurance or servility. But it is no uncommon thing to behold the same person fastidious and fawning, supercilious and sycophantic. Mr. Clinton, far from an implacable enemy, began to be softened, when his lady (who, if born among the Scythians, had been the Thalestris of antiquity), unravelling the secret, frustrated at once all expectations of a composition, and gave the plenipotentiary such a volley of invective against his constituent, as rendered all future overtures entirely hopeless."

Whether the writer himself is above the influence of that prejudice which he condemns in others, we cannot decide; yet, if his own solemn assertion be admitted as evidence, his narrative is entitled to full credit.

"Thus, my Lord, I have finished the relation of what has hitherto been transacted in America. I have not only presented you with a series of the most interesting events, but brought your Lordship acquainted with the characters and designs of the principal agents in our political affairs. If I have erred, I am persuaded it is not in any article of importance, nor purposely in the minutest. Every line of this letter hath been penned with the most sacred veneration for truth, and a mind equally unbiassed by resentment or affection. For obtaining an intimate acquaintance with the matters rehearsed, few in the colonies have had superior advantages; nor in collecting proper materials has any one been more assiduous. Add to this, that I had no other interest in the public measures than the interest of every man on the continent. I am unconnected with all parties; neither enjoying any post myself, nor standing in the least relation to a single officer in the army. The love of my country was the sole spring of my curiosity; and so far, indeed, I was not an unconcerned spectator of the public transactions. If I have made honourable mention of General Shirley, it was owing to my approbation of his schemes, as conducive to the common weal of the British plantations: and if my judgment was, in this regard, erroneous, I have the pleasure to find myself in very respectable company. Except New-York, or rather a prevailing faction there, all the colonies hold him in very high esteem. Some have made public declarations of their sense of his great merit, and that, too, at a time when he appeared descending from his meridian of glory. But he

needed no other than the testimonials of his own province; for he, my Lord, whose conduct is approved by the people of the Massachusetts-Bay, must be distinguished both for his abilities and his virtue. They are too numerous and wise to be deceived, too free and independent to be driven. An undue influence can never be obtained by the Governor of a colony who has neither power nor places to bestow. Their assemblies are annual; the members elected by ballot, in number near two hundred. The council, or middle estate, chosen yearly by the assembly: and as all the offices are elective, not a man in the province is dependent on the smiles or the frowns of the king's-representative: and yet so wise, free, and loyal a people have approved his judgment, confided in his integrity, testified in his favour, and publicly lamented his departure from the continent. I would by no means, my Lord, be understood, by these favourable sentiments of Shirley, to disparage his noble successor in the command. He yet has not, at least he deserves not to have, a single enemy amongst us: and I hope it will serve the purposes of no man to be his enemy. I could only have wished, that, at this critical juncture, a gentleman so thoroughly versed in American affairs had been continued in America for his Lordship's assistance."

3. *A description of Wiscasset; and of the river Sheepscot. By the Rev. Alden Bradford, Minister at Wiscasset, S. H. S.*

The design of the writer of this article is to give a more copious and correct account of Wiscasset than is to be found in the *History of Maine*, the Geography of Dr. MORSE, or the Travels of the Duke of LIANCOURT; all of whom, he obseves, have been erroneous in their statements.

We take this occasion to remark, that in perusing the ponderous quartos of the French traveller, we have observed, with astonishment and regret, the numerous errors, gross misrepresentations and illiberal personal reflections with which his work abounds. We have wished and expected that some American, of extensive information and candid temper, would expose these errors and faults, as well as those of several other travellers in the United States of America. This is the more necessary, since the mistakes, false conclusions, and petty scandal of these publishers of travels, are repeated and credited in numerous periodical publications of Europe.

4. *Witham Marshe's journal of the treaty held with the Six Nations, by the Commissioners of Maryland and*

other provinces, at Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, June, 1744.

5. *A list of the several public offices, ecclesiastical preferments, and other places of profit in the province of Maryland, with their revenues; in whose distribution, as a proprietary government.*

6. *Union of the British American colonies, as proposed in the year* 1754.

7. *Report of a committee, chosen by the General Assembly of Connecticut, respecting the foregoing plan of union.*

8. *The reasons considered and offered, by the Assembly of the colony of Connecticut, concerning the plan of union the Commissioners of the several colonies in North-America, who met at Albany on the* 14*th June,* 1754, *have proposed for uniting the said colonies into one general government, for the purposes therein expressed.*

The plan of union which is the subject of the three last articles was exhibited in our review of Minot's Continuation of the History of Massachusetts, page 1.

9. *Petitions, &c. from the members of the Church of England, in Boston, respecting bishops.*

10. *An account of the whole trade and shipping of the island of Newfoundland, for the year* 1799, *taken from the custom-house books.*

From this account it appears that 340 vessels, or about 34,000 tons of shipping, are engaged in the trade of this island, which gives employment to about 2500 seamen.

11. *Number of the British subjects, men, women and children, in the colonies of North-America, taken from militia rolls, poll-taxes, bills of mortality, returns from governors, and other authentic authorities. From the London Magazine for May,* 1755.

By this enumeration the aggregate population of all the British colonies, from Nova-Scotia to Georgia, exclusive of the military force in the pay of government, and the negroes, was, in the year 1755, 1,051,000.

12. *A bill for better regulating of charter and proprietary governments in America, and for the encouragement of the trade of this kingdom, and of his majesty's plantations.*

13. *Dedications to the Rev. John Eliot's Indian version of the Old and New Testament. Printed at Cambridge, N. E.* 1663.

These dedications to Charles II. are said to be "very scarce

appendages of a very scarce book," and were annexed only to a few copies of this curious version of the bible sent to England. The copy from which they are printed was snatched from the merciless hand of destruction in a *barber's shop.*— To the antiquary they are precious relics.

14. *Sir Thomas Temple's apology for coinage in Massachusetts. From the (London) Monthly Magazine for January,* 1799.

This piece is intended to rectify an erroneous inference made by Dr. Robertson, in his History of America, that the people of Massachusetts, by coining silver money without the royal authority, manifested an aspiring spirit of independence at that time.

The following anecdote may amuse the reader:

" Sir Thomas Temple, brother to Sir William Temple, resided several years in New-England during the interregnum. After the restoration, when he returned to England, the king sent for him, and discoursed with him on the state of affairs in the Massachusetts, and discovered great warmth against that colony. Among other things, he said they had invaded his prerogative by coining money. Sir Thomas, who was a real friend to the colony, told his majesty, that the colonists had but little acquaintance with law, and that they thought it no crime to make money for their own use. In the course of the conversation Sir Thomas took some of the money out of his pocket and presented it to the king. On one side of the coin was a pine tree, of that kind which is thick and bushy at the top. Charles asked what tree that was? Sir Thomas informed him it was the royal oak, which preserved his majesty's life. This account of the matter brought the king into good humour, and disposed him to hear what Sir Thomas had to say in their favour, calling them a " parcel of honest dogs."

15. *The heads of inquiry relative to the present state and condition of his majesty's colony of Connecticut, signified by his majesty's Secretary of State, in his letter of the 5th July,* 1773, *with the answers returned to his majesty's Secretary of State, by the Governor and Company of the English colony of Connecticut, Oct.* 1774.

The answers to these queries of the British crown contain a concise statement of the natural, civil and commercial state of Connecticut at the time they were written.

16. *Some account of the severe drought in* 1749, *from a MS. of Mr. James Blake, of Dorchester.*

17. *Grand jury's bill against Mary Osgood.*

This indictment for *witchcraft* was indorsed in the *pithy dialect* of criminal proceedings *Billa vera—Ponit se—Non cul.—found.*

18. *Biographical notice of the Rev. James Noyes, first Minister of Newbury.*

19. *A description and historical account of the Isles of Shoals.*

This cluster of small islands, lying near the coast of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts, is inhabited by fishermen, who have been led, by their favourable position for fishing, to take up their abode there. Though dreary and unfertile, they are represented as capable of affording competent sustenance to above 600 inhabitants.—Before the late revolution they were prosperous, but being dispersed by the war in 1775, the number of the inhabitants is reduced to 112, who are described as poor, and ignorant, and destitute of religion and morals. Their deplorable condition in this respect was represented to the "Society for propagating the Gospel" in Boston, who sent a *missionary* to reside among them.

Through the influence of the Society a subscription was obtained for the building of a church, which has been since erected on one of the islands, and serves the double purpose of a school and place of public worship.—The inhabitants have entered into a written compact for the support of these social institutions, and strong hope is cherished of their being rescued from their impoverished and degenerate condition, and rendered prosperous and happy.—It is supposed that these islands, from their situation, are not unworthy the attention of the government of the United States, to whom it has been suggested that the jurisdiction should be ceded.

20. *Ecclesiastical history of Massachusetts and the old colony of Plymouth.*

The *first section* only of this history is to be found in this volume of the Collections, containing an "account of the first church in Plymouth; the piety and sufferings of the planters; the good of the church, and difficulties attending the settlement of a pastor." The *Preface* exhibits the design of the author, as well as some remarks on our early historians, and we shall therefore exhibit it.

"Dr. Mather wrote an ecclesiastical history of this country, a large book, now very rarely seen. The facts are communicated in so strange a style, and mingled with so many oddities of opinion, and fabulous representations, that few are disposed to look into it for the sake of the information. Many

things there related the candid reader imputes to the weakness of the age; the most candid will see, too often, the prejudices and false zeal of the author.

" Mr. Neal published his history of New-England in 1719. It is well written, and deserves more credit than Hutchinson allows, when he says it is only an *abridgment of the Magnalia Americana*. It is an impartial and entertaining account of their civil and ecclesiastical affairs. Some things are contained in it, which were not known either to Dr. Cotton Mather, or any other writer of this ' American strand.'

" It is superior in style to the later work of Governor Hutchinson, though the materials for history were much greater which this gentleman possessed; and we are indebted to him for many facts, in the early periods of the settlement, which, but for his care, would have been entirely lost; also for a fund of information concerning the country, after he had become a leader in the public transactions.

" The compiler of the present work confines himself to ecclesiastical history, having consulted many old MSS. beside all the printed accounts of the congregational churches; and he prefers to publish in the Historical Collections, where many useful, interesting, and important documents are preserved, which will be of infinite service to future writers, as they have been to himself.

" After giving an account of the church in New-Plymouth, and the ancient form in Massachusetts, he will consider the changes which have been made, the prevailing opinions, the controversies among those of the congregational mode of worship, as well as those which have been carried on with churches of other denominations; and to exhibit to view the present *state* of religion.

" Hubbard's MS. has afforded him some assistance, a book excellent of the kind, and which ought to have been printed many years ago, for its historical information, and the reputation of the author. He was the best writer in New-England while he lived; learned, judicious, and capable of giving a proper arrangement to his facts. With exception to a few quaint expressions, common to all the puritan divines in England, as well as North-America, this book is valuable for the composition. Why was it never published? He left it complete, and a fair copy was transcribed for the press. It fell into the hands of some who were disposed to make a liberal use of it for their own purposes, and then kept it from the public eye. All who have written any account of Massachusetts, are more indebted to it than

they are willing to own; yet there is not even a biographical sketch of the man to be found. We know, however, that he left behind him a good name, which is better, in the opinion of the wise, than any *perfume* or *niche* in the temple of fame."

We shall conclude our account of this volume, by expressing our sincere hope that the society may find adequate encouragement to induce them to persevere in collecting the fragments of American history, which, dispersed over a wide field, would be neglected and lost, without their preserving care. We are pleased to see that their attention is not limited to New-England, and that valuable pieces, illustrative of the history of the middle and southern states, find a place in their collections.

ARTICLE VII.

The Works of the Rev. John Witherspoon, *D. D. LL. D. late President of the College at Princeton, New-Jersey. To which is prefixed an Account of the Author's Life, in a Sermon occasioned by his Death, by the Rev. Dr.* John Rodgers, *of New-York.* 4 vols. 8vo. Woodward. *Philadelphia.* 1800.

WE have noticed, with uncommon satisfaction, the design of raising, by this edition of his works, a monument to the honour of Dr. Witherspoon; a man whose character stands so high in the estimation of every friend to religion, literature, and liberty. The expectations we had formed with regard to the merit of this publication have been abundantly gratified. In perusing it we are equally pleased with the brilliancy and force of the author's wit, the vigour and penetration of his judgment, and that noble dignity of virtue and consistency of character which shine throughout with uniform and undiminished lustre. These volumes are said to contain all his works. Many of the pieces were never before committed to the press; but the greater part have been published at different times during his life, and have been repeatedly perused, criticised, and admired. They are arranged in the following order:

Volume I. *An Essay on Justification—A Practical Treatise on Regeneration*—and sixteen sermons.

Volume II. Thirty-one sermons.

Volume III. *An Inquiry into the Scripture meaning of Charity—A serious Inquiry into the Nature and Effects of the Stage—Ecclesiastical Characteristics—A serious Apology for the same—The History of a Corporation of Servants—Lectures on Moral Philosophy—Lectures on Eloquence—Letters on Education—Essay on Money—Letters on Marriage—A Pastoral Letter.*

Volume IV. *Lectures on Divinity*—several *Speeches in Congress*, and some in different Ecclesiastical Courts in Britain and America—*The Druid*, a periodical publication—*Address in behalf of the College of New-Jersey*—and a number of small pieces on political and other subjects.

The whole is judiciously prefaced by an excellent funeral discourse, pronounced at the request of the trustees of the college of New-Jersey, by the Rev. Dr. RODGERS, containing a well drawn biographical sketch of the deceased President. From this discourse we extract the following general character of Dr. W. as a writer. (p. 28.)

"As a writer, his stile is simple and comprehensive—his remarks judicious and often refined—his information, on every subject which he treats, accurate and extensive—his matter always weighty and important—closely condensed, and yet well arranged and clear. Simplicity, perspicuity, precision, comprehension of thought, and knowledge of the world, and of the human heart, reign in every part of his writings."—"His remarks on the nature and effects of the stage enter deeply into the human heart. We find there many refined observations, after the example of the Messieurs de Port Royal in France, not obvious to ordinary minds, but perfectly founded in the history of man, and the state of society. The pernicious influence of that amusement on the public taste and morals was, perhaps, never more clearly elucidated. On the following interesting subjects, *the nature and necessity of regeneration—justification by free grace, through Jesus Christ—and the importance of truth in religion, or the connection that subsists between sound principles and a holy practice*—there is, perhaps, nothing superior in the English language. But Dr. Witherspoon's talents were various. He was not only a serious writer, but he possessed a fund of refined humour and delicate satire. A happy specimen of this is seen in his *Ecclesiastical Characteristics.* The edge of his wit, in that performance, was directed against certain corruptions, in principle and practice, prevalent in the Church of Scotland. And no attack that was ever made upon them, gave them so deep a wound,

or was so severely felt. Dr. WARBURTON, the celebrated Bishop of Gloucester, mentions the *Characteristics* with particular approbation, and expresses his wish that the English Church, as she needed one too, had likewise such a corrector."

To the above character by Dr. RODGERS, it may not be improper to add the following, by the Rev. Dr. GREEN, of Philadelphia, in a letter to the printer, who desired him to recommend his undertaking to the public.

"It has given me much pleasure to hear that you are about to publish an edition of the works of the late Dr. WITHERSPOON. I know not how you could do a greater service to the public than by this undertaking; and I sincerely hope you may find it advantageous to yourself. In all the Doctor's tracts there is manifest that closeness and clearness of thought, that acuteness of discernment and accuracy of discrimination, that faculty of separating the matter discussed from every thing extraneous, that constant attention to radical principles and systematic consistency, that lucid order, and that power of presenting his whole subject in the most striking and impressive manner to the mind of the reader, which distinguish the writer of penetration and comprehensive views. His style is uniformly simple and nervous—perfectly intelligible to those who have not had the advantages of education, and yet pleasing to those whose taste is the most cultivated and correct. The Doctor has given specimens of talent as a critic, a satirist and a politician, which demonstrate that he might have attained high eminence in each of these characters. But from a sense of duty, as well as from a love to the employment, he devoted himself principally to the discussion of religious truth; and always with a view to its practical application. His sermons and essays, on various topics in divinity, will be read with pleasure and with profit by serious christians of all denominations. The pious and eloquent WILBERFORCE has noticed them with approbation in his late popular book.

"If the Doctor's works had been generally read in this country, it would be equally unnecessary and assuming for me to characterize or recommend them. But, for ten years past, I believe, they have not been vended by any American bookseller, and, I am informed, they are now out of print in Britain."

It is not always that theology, either doctrinal or practical, is made to wear a classical dress. Too often writers on sacred subjects, regardless of the variations of times and manners,

appear to think themselves bound to a certain form and peculiarity of expression. From this fault Dr. W.'s writings are free. In the tracts on Justification and Regeneration he affords a happy specimen of the union of simplicity, force and elegance with theological accuracy. The same character belongs to all those of his works immediately consecrated to religion. Whilst he never sacrifices the simplicity of the gospel to the parade of style, he never disgusts by carelessness or familiarity of diction. In discussing a point of doctrine, commenting upon a difficult passage, or vindicating a contested truth, no man is more luminous and convincing. As a devotional writer he has few rivals, because few are possessed, in an equal degree, of the desirable faculty of writing from the heart, and addressing himself with solemn impressive earnestness to the hearts of others.

But it was in the pulpit that the talents of the learned President appeared to the greatest advantage. His sermons are distinguished for their good sense, comprehensiveness and piety; animated, for the most part, by the energy, and embellished by the graces, of a masculine eloquence. With the great springs of human action he was well acquainted. Perhaps among all the English preachers none can be produced who surpass him in the art of combining a luminous exhibition of divine truth with the fervent application of it to the conscience. In his exordium, and the easy transition from it to the body of his discourse, he is peculiarly happy. The principal use of an exordium is to prepare the audience for the subject matter of the discourse, and insensibly to conduct them to it. Its chief excellencies are brevity, simplicity, perspicuity, and a natural and unconstrained connection in matter and manner with the succeeding subject. In each of these particulars the introductions of Dr. W. excel. As an example we transcribe the introduction of a sacramental sermon, in the first volume, on Gal. vi. 14. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."—"My brethren, we are this day met, to keep up the remembrance of our Redeemer's sufferings and death in our room. We are to commemorate an event the most important, the most interesting, and the most astonishing that creation ever beheld. We are to contemplate a subject the most wonderful and mysterious that ever was offered to the mind of man. *The incarnation of the Son of God, the King of kings found in the form of a servant, and the Prince of life expiring on an accursed tree.* What is this but the union of things the most opposite and

seemingly inconsistent that can possibly be conceived; the union of the most distant extremes of strength and weakness, glory and baseness, honour and shame?

"In a sort of correspondence and analogy to this great subject itself, nothing can be more opposite than the sentiments formed by believers and unbelievers with regard to it. To the one it hath a dignity and majesty unspeakably amiable; to the other it hath a meanness and baseness that is shameful and contemptible. The Apostle Paul often takes notice of this, that it was '*to the Jews a stumbling-block and to the Greeks foolishness;*' and he often discovers his own inviolable attachment to his Saviour, by an open profession of esteem for those circumstances in his character and appearance which a blinded world were most apt to treat with derision and scorn. This is particularly the case in the text—'*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*'

"By the cross of Christ, in the New Testament, we are sometimes to understand the sufferings of believers for Christ's sake; but more commonly, and, I think, evidently in this place, it signifies his humiliation in general, and particularly his crucifixion, to which circumstance our attention is directed, because it was the most base and ignominious of the whole. In this, the Apostle says, he would glory: nay, he expresses his abhorrence at the thought of glorying in any thing else: 'God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Nothing can be more suited to the employment of this day, and nothing more proper to distinguish between the friends and the enemies of Christ, than this, when carefully attended to; for the one will undoubtedly *glory*, and the other will as certainly be *ashamed* of his cross."

This is an exordium, simple, perspicuous, and natural; congenial with the sacred occasion on which it was pronounced, and characterized by that elevated solemnity which the sublime subject naturally inspires.

The following extracts from a sermon on the *Trial of Religious Truth by its Moral Influence*, will enable the reader to judge farther of Dr. W.'s manner.

"It is of moment here to observe, that this rule hath a deep and solid foundation. It proceeds upon the supposition, that all natural are inferior to moral qualities; that even the noblest intellectual abilities are only so far valuable as they are subservient to moral perfection; or, in other words, that truth is in order to goodness. It is not, as has been often said, in

his Almighty power, his infinite wisdom, or the immensity of his being, that the glory of God chiefly consists, but in his immaculate holiness and spotless purity. Each part of the divine character, indeed, derives a lustre from the other. It is the union of greatness and goodness that makes him truly God. His moral excellence becomes infinite in value and efficacy by residing in an infinite object. But if it were possible to separate his natural perfection from his moral excellence, or could we suppose them joined to malignity of disposition, he would be the proper object (let us speak it with reverence), not of supreme love, but of infinite detestation.

"This is more than sufficient to support the order in which things are represented above, and show that its moral influence is the proper touchstone and trial of religious truth. These doctrines only come from God, which tend to form us after the divine image. Thus far, perhaps, all will allow it to be true; at least the assertion is common. But, be pleased to observe, that this necessarily supposes the sure and infallible efficacy of real truth in promoting holiness, and the insufficiency of error and falshood for this purpose. If these were not both alike certain, the rule would be equivocal and absurd. If men, by believing lies, could attain to unfeigned goodness and true holiness, then their moral effect could not in the least serve to distiuguish between truth and error. It is no less plain, that if so absurd a supposition is admitted but for a moment, the value of truth is wholly destroyed, and no wise man will employ his time and pains in endeavouring to discover, to communicate, or to defend it.

"The other particular, comprehended under the excellence of this rule, is its perspicuity; that it is not only sure and infallible in itself, but capable of an easy application by those who have occasion to use it. Here, if any where, there is room for doubt and disputation. Here, it may be alledged, all the confusion and uncertainty returns which was before complained of, and for which a remedy was required. Men will still differ in their opinions as to what is true goodness. Besides, they will still debate the sincerity of many pretensions, and the reality of many appearances; and, as art and hypocrisy will always be used on the one hand, delusion must be the unavoidable consequence on the other.

"This, however, is no more than the necessary consequence of human imperfection. It cannot be denied, and it may, without any hesitation, be confessed, that men are liable to err, and that many have erred in the application of this

rule. But who can from thence justly infer, that it is not of sufficient clearness to direct those who will honestly make use of it, and to lay the error of those who are misled entirely at their own door?

"It pleased God to write his law upon the heart of man at first. And the great lines of duty, however obscured by our original apostacy, are still so visible as to afford an opportunity of judging what conduct and practice is, or is not, agreeable to its dictates. It will be found, from experience, that men are liable to determine on this point with far greater certainty than on any other subject of religion: that is to say, they can perceive the excellency of the end, when they are in much doubt about the means, in themselves, or separately considered.

"Such authority hath natural conscience still in man, that it renders those who, in their own conduct, despise its reproofs, inexcusable in the sight of God.* But it is of importance, in the present argument, to observe, that every one is able to pass a far surer judgment on the moral character of another than his own. The pollution of the heart brings a corrupt bias on the judgment, in a man's own case, and makes him palliate and defend those sins to which he is strongly inclined, or of which he hath been already guilty: whereas, in determining the characters of others, this bias is less sensibly felt. This is, perhaps, the true and only reason why any deference is paid to virtue, as praise-worthy, by those who are enemies to it in their hearts—or any public honour and respect given to the service of God in the world, where so great a majority are evidently in the interests of another master.

"One singular excellence of this rule is its being the most universally intelligible. It is level to the capacity of men of all degrees of understanding. There is little difference, if any, in this respect, between the wise and the unwise, the learned and the ignorant. Perhaps this circumstance alone ought to give it, in justice, the preference to every other test of religious truth. Religion is the concern of all alike; and, therefore, what relates to it should be open to all. It was the character and the glory of the gospel, at its first publication, that it was preached to the poor. And by this it is still distinguished, not only from many or most false religions, but especially from those philosophical speculations, in which the enemies of

* "Rom. i. 20. ii. 14."

all religion place their chief strength. When we peruse a system or theory of moral virtue, the principles of which are very refined, or the reasoning upon it abstracted and above the comprehension of the vulgar, it may be ingenious, but it carries in itself a demonstration, that, because it is unfit, it could never be intended for general use.

"Here, then, lies the great advantage of the rule laid down by our Saviour. The bulk of mankind, those of lower rank, and even those among them of weakest or least cultivated understanding, are able to judge of the effects of principles; or to see the beauty of an excellent character, when they are not able to examine a doctrine, or apprehend the reasoning upon which it is founded. The dictates of conscience are often immediate and clear, when the deductions of reason are long and involved. To make intricate researches in theory, requires great natural abilities, which are the portion of very few; but to judge of a visible character requires only an impartial sense of right and wrong. Of this the plain man is as susceptible as the most acute by nature, or the most enlightened by education. In God Almighty, infinite knowledge and infinite holiness are united, and, we have reason to think, that in their perfection they are inseparable. But we know, by experience, that they do not bear an exact proportion to one another in inferior natures, at least among sinful creatures. There may be, and there often is, great virtue and goodness in a mean capacity, and great depravity in persons of eminent ability.

"From these considerations it is plain, that this rule of trying a doctrine by its effects, as a tree by its fruits, may be applied by the meanest as well as the greatest, and with as little danger of mistake. Perhaps it might have been safely affirmed, with less danger of mistake. Great intellectual abilities, and great natural advantages of every kind, are very ready to swell the mind with pride and self-conceit, than which no disposition is, in itself, more odious in the sight of God, or more unfavourable to the discovery of truth. This seems to be confirmed by experience, and it is plainly the view given us of our present state in the holy scriptures. Thus the apostle Paul says, 'Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea,

and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.'* For the very same thing we find our blessed Redeemer adoring the depth and sovereignty of Divine Providence, in the following terms: 'In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.'†

"Mistakes, however, after all, there will be, and some differences even among the best; but, from this very circumstance I derive another great excellence of the above rule laid down, that it is not only the test of truth for a man's self, but the measure of forbearance with regard to others. By carefully examining their fruits, men may not only be directed what to embrace, and what capital and fundamental errors wholly to reject, but also in what particulars to exercise mutual forbearance; and, though smaller differences still subsist, to receive one another to the glory of God. If, in any person or persons, of whatever party, you perceive the spirit of true and undefiled religion, they are accepted of God, and should not be condemned by you. This ought not, in justice, to induce you to approve or embrace every one of their principles, or every part of their practice, of which, perhaps, you have seen or felt the bad tendency; yet should it engage you to love them with unfeigned affection, as sincere, though, in some measure, mistaken servants of our common Lord."

To give a specimen of Dr. W.'s talent in the application of divine truth to the feelings of his audience, we shall, without any apology for protracting this article, present our readers with the concluding paragraph of another sacramental sermon, entitled, "Redemption the subject of admiration to the angels." Vol. i. p. 523.

"In the last place, from what has been said, learn what is your most proper employment at the Lord's table. Adore and contemplate the riches of redeeming grace, that great theme which 'the angels desire to look into.' Think, with humble amazement, on the boundless mercy of God, which reached even to you, and with the highest thankfulness, on the honour to which you are admitted, of receiving the sensible pledges of his love. Dwell on this impenetrable mystery of 'Immanuel, God with us'—'God manifested in the flesh.' Think on this awful proof of Divine justice and holiness, the wrath

* "1 Cor. i. 26—29." † "Luke x. 21."

of God poured out upon his own Son. Think on the perfection of that atonement which is made for the sins of the world. Rejoice in the fulness of that Saviour who is now made 'Head over all things to the Church;' and draw, by faith, from his fulness, every necessary supply to yourselves: and as you are now to commemorate his death, with a view to his second coming, think on that 'day of salvation,' when he shall come 'to be glorified in his saints, and admired in all them that believe;' when you shall enter in triumph into the holiest of all, where, no doubt, the mystery of redemption shall be more fully discovered; when saints and angels shall jointly sing that new song—'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing;' when the whole plan of Divine grace shall be completed and closed, and the mediatorial kingdom itself brought to a period; for 'then cometh the end when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father;' when confirmed angels and redeemed sinners, when the whole host of heaven shall unite in one acclamation,—'Hallelujah; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

As the first volume consists wholly of pieces which have been before published, we shall not pursue the consideration of them further. In attending to the others, we shall be careful to mark those parts which have now appeared, for the first time, from the press.

(To be continued.)

ARTICLE VIII.

Edwy and Elgiva; a Tragedy, in five Acts. *By* Charles Jared Ingersol. 8vo. pp. 84. *Philadelphia.* A. Dickins. 1801.

THE story on which this tragedy is founded is taken from an early period of Anglo-Saxon history; in those days when the power of the Pope held in subjection the proudest potentates, and the influence of superstition had enslaved the noblest minds.—The charms of the *gentle Elgiva* had inspired in the breast of the youthful *Edwy* a passion too lively and tender to be restrained by the frigid rules of monkish austerity: dis-

daining the obstacles which the Church had raised to his wishes, and in defiance of its authority, he espoused his lovely *cousin*. This indignity was not to be forgiven; and the narrative of their wrongs and sufferings is a lamentable proof of the ignorance and mistaken zeal of the age in which they lived.—The author has attempted to awaken our sensibility by a dramatic representation of the misfortunes and distress which flowed from this fatal union.

In historical plays it is of great importance that the principal facts should not be materially misrepresented, although it is undoubtedly allowable to assist the plot by fictitious circumstances. Where these, however, are neither necessary nor probable, propriety requires their exclusion. We cannot, therefore, suppress our surprise on seeing Dunstan, at the opening of the piece, on a wild and desert heath, the inhabitant of a rude hut. This is not only a needless deviation from the order of historic events, but it is irreconcilable with the character in which Dunstan immediately afterwards appears. We soon find him described as chancellor to the late king; still acting in that office under Edwy, and commanding an armed force little inferior to that of the king himself. A man thus clothed with honour and power would hardly be the tenant of the humble habitation the author has assigned to him. The truth is, that Dunstan, in the early part of his life, had drawn upon himself the reproachful character of a dissolute ecclesiastic; and, in order to retrieve his reputation by an effectual imposture, he withdrew from the court of Edmund to a desert, where he built, with his own hands, a cell, in which he could neither stand erect nor lie at full length. In this situation he betook himself to the severest penance, and thus established his character as a saint. Having succeeded in his experiment, he again appeared at court in the reign of Edred, was made chancellor of the realm, and continued in that station till he was disgraced and banished by Edwy.

These distant and separate incidents in the life of Dunstan are, in this drama, brought together, and made to appear wholly inconsistent. It is really difficult to comprehend the design of the author in this respect, unless it was to captivate the senses of an audience by the exhibition of scenery, at the expence of truth and propriety.

The author undoubtedly intended that love should be the ruling passion of his play; but in the characters of both his hero and heroine he seems to have forgotten, that wherever it is introduced into tragedy it ought to controul the action.

Edwy seems more intent on the destruction of Dunstan than on the regaining his queen: no measures, indeed, are taken for that purpose, except the dispatching of some messengers to the north, who are never afterwards heard of or inquired after.

We see nothing of Elgiva, nor do we know any thing of her fate, after we leave her in Odo's palace, until the fifth act. In the mean time Edwy becomes so much engaged in arms, that he deems it necessary even to drive her image from his mind, lest the soft influence of love might destroy his warlike energies.

In the second act, after the queen has been seized by Dunstan and his followers, she is at first represented as braving the danger which awaited her, and ready to undergo the utmost that their malice could inflict, rather than renounce her lord:

> "Nor scoffs nor threats shall shake my constancy."

And yet, in the very next breath, all this "boasted fortitude" has deserted her, and she meanly consents to be torn even from Edwy, rather than encounter the gloom of a vault. All dignity of character is at once lost, and we see nothing but a frail woman, a prey to her fears, imploring, in the most abject manner, relief, upon any conditions, from threatened punishment. Such a character cannot awaken the sympathy or admiration of the spectator, nor do we see in it that dignity and energy which belong to the heroine of a tragedy. Instead of beholding the noble-minded Elgiva struggling against the evils which beset her with a firmness not to be moved, and resolving, at every hazard, to cherish the vows of love, we find the heroine degenerated into a timid, irresolute female, who is driven from her fixed purpose at the first blast of misfortune.

A considerable part of the action of this play does not contribute to its catastrophe: there is nothing which prepares the mind to expect, nor is there any thing to render probable the abrupt meeting of the lovers after the battle.

Modern writers have considerably departed from the rules which governed the Greek drama. Those unities which it was necessary to observe in the ancient tragedy have not been in later times, attended to with so much strictness. No good writer, however, will entirely disregard them; though little attention is paid to them by our author. The unity of time in particular is violated in almost every instance. We are hurried from place to place with a rapidity that is inexcusable.

The versification is generally smooth and flowing, and discovers poetic powers which are worthy of cultivation: they are evidently, however, not sufficiently matured for so great an undertaking as the construction of a tragedy. There is sometimes a recurrence of similar incidents, and in the fourth act in particular there is a tiresome repetition of the embassy, which a writer of ordinary skill would have avoided. Expressions are often used that are extremely juvenile, and sometimes frivolous.

The queen, after her marriage, thus expresses herself:

> " How have I wish'd this hour! this happy hour!
> Which puts a glittering crown upon my head,
> And gives me to the arms of him I love."

The second line is inconsistent with the character of Elgiva, who is no where represented as being under the direction of *ambition:* the possession, therefore, of a crown, forms no part of her happiness or wishes: but when it is made not only a *crown*, but a *glittering* one too, her joy at its acquisition is weak and childish.

The succeeding lines are both unpoetical and unintelligible, unless the emphasis is placed with great care:

> " While some drag her away, others detain
> The king, till we have passed the outer gate."

The following metaphor is incorrect, and the language is not that of passion, which is always the language of nature.

> " You shall be immolated *on the shrine*
> Of vengeance!"

There is an evident confusion of figure in this passage:

> " The doctrinal precepts which have been instill'd
> Into his mind, meeting his inward drift,
> Have to an *ardent zeal* determin'd him;
> And in this *saintly pool* he 'merges every wish."

Other instances might be produced of looseness and inaccuracy of style. These will suffice to show, that although the age of the author may, among his friends, be a satisfactory apology for his faults, yet we fear that the public will not so readily excuse them. We think, however, this performance evinces some taste in the choice and arrangement of words, and more judgment and correctness than we usually meet with among very youthful writers.

We select the following passage as a specimen of Mr. Ingersol's manner of writing, and the mode in which he conceives his subject:

[" *Scene changes to the council chamber—King on the throne—Lords and attendants—Flourish.*]

" KING.

" You all do know the purpose of this meeting—
You all have heard your monarch's shameful wrongs—
His palace storm'd, his friends in cold blood murder'd—
His bridal room assaulted, and his queen,
The gentle Elgiva, torn from his arms;
Himself struck to the earth, by a rebellious blow!
These you have learn'd—and you will judge them rightly
The perpetrator will appear ere long,
And here confront his injur'd sovereign.
On our decree, you will determine, lords;
And, should it bear *the front of right*, confirm.

" GODOLPHIN. [*Without.*]

" Heed not his raving; drag him on, my friends.

[" *Enter Godolphin and Dunstan guarded.*]

" DUNSTAN.

" How dare you, pagans, thus with impious hands,
To grasp the sacred messenger of heav'n?

" GODOLPHIN.

" Silence—continue not thy imprecations;
Respect the presence of thy injur'd sovereign!
My liege, our pris'ner did refuse attendance;
Nor could we, but by force, have brought him hither.

" DUNSTAN. [*To the King.*]

" Thou should'st have come thyself—not sent thy slaves.
Have I not taught thee oft, presumptuous youth,
The crown should render homage to the mitre?

" KING.

" Thou *wert* [wast] chancellor to our late uncle:
Trusting thy loyalty, we did continue
That office to thee:—Thou'st receiv'd vast sums,
Accounts of which thou ne'er hast render'd up:
Within this hour, shew all thy statements fair,
And here refund what yet thou hast reserv'd,
Or we do banish thee.

" DUNSTAN.

" The computations are both long and intricate;
Nor could I, in so short a time, exhibit them.

" KING.

" The fees which the exchequer did receive
From our last tribute—cans't thou render them?

" DUNSTAN.

" They were, my liege, disburs'd in charities.

" KING.

" And all which have accru'd on our accession?

" DUNSTAN.

" With them the troops the church employs were paid.

" KING.

" The crown, lord Dunstan, doth require some troops:
Can'st, from the treasury, supply the funds?

"DUNSTAN.

"The government, of late, has ask'd so much,
That but a trifling sum remains. I fear,
My liege, the exchequer cannot aid you.

"KING.

"Weak, thin-spun artifice! Embezzlement
Has been thy constant practice. For this crime
We now degrade thee from thy honours, and
To exile sentence thee. Proclaim, that he
Who three days hence shall find, within the realms,
The traitor Dunstan, shall receive our thanks,
And rich reward to bring his head to court.
Suffer him not to speak! hurry him hence!"

It cannot have escaped observation, that this was the first time the king had seen Dunstan after his "palace had been stormed," and the "gentle Elgiva" torn from his arms. Is it not, then, surprising that not a single question is asked concerning her fate—nor any means taken to discover from him her situation; and that nothing should be thought of but calling him to an account for his chancellorship during the life of his late uncle. Those who do not bear in mind the historical fact will readily wonder at the meaning of this scene, and will certainly not perceive its force. There is also a striking inconsistency in the conduct of Dunstan. He first spurns the authority of the king (which is very coolly submitted to), and then proceeds to answer his inquiries with all due humility. Can we imagine that the man who calls his sovereign "a presumptuous youth," and tells him that "the crown should render homage to the mitre," should, at the same instant, forget all his pride and importance, and submissively enter into an examination which he knew must end in his ruin.

To examine every part of this tragedy which affords a fair subject for criticism, would lead to needless prolixity. We cannot but think it, upon the whole, a flat and uninteresting performance.

Before we close our remarks we cannot avoid taking notice of the very singular style of Mr. I.'s dedication. It is really unique, and has a *diplomatique* formality and pomp which renders it ridiculous and disgusting. We can readily believe that the "success of the play was in a great measure owing to the inimitable performance" of Mrs. Merry. We have witnessed and admired the surprising powers of that charming actress and accomplished woman. Memory still preserves in

vivid recollection her graceful gesture and her dignified mein, while the magic thrill of her voice still vibrates upon the ear.

It will be unfortunate for Mr. I. should Elgiva ever be personated by any but a Merry.

ARTICLE IX.

The Bankrupt Law of America compared with the Bankrupt Law of England. By Thomas Cooper, *of Northumberland, Pennsylvania.* 8vo. pp. 462. *Philadelphia.* Thompson. 1801.

THE striking analogy between the Bankrupt Law of the United States, and the system established in Great-Britain, will naturally induce American lawyers, accustomed always to regard with veneration the adjudications of British courts, to look to them for precedents by which to interpret the law of their own country, and to guide them in the decision of cases which arise under it.

The most ample and best written treatise on the English Bankrupt Law is that of Mr. COOKE, a *fourth* edition* of which, with large additions and improvements, has lately appeared.

By the insertion of adjudications at full length, that work is, perhaps, too bulky and expensive for many readers. Mr. COOPER has endeavoured to render his volume more compendious, by referring to the cases decided, without extracting them entire. This plan, so far as it regards the law of England, has been better executed in a volume lately published, entitled, "Principles of Bankrupt Law, by ARCHIBALD CULLEN, *Esq.*" which Mr. C. appears not to have seen, and from which he would have derived instruction in the compilation and arrangement of his own work.

Notwithstanding the general resemblance which the American Bankrupt Law bears to that of England, there are many important points of difference between them. A treatise that should exhibit, with accuracy and precision, the similarities and differences between the systems of the two countries, must be of very obvious utility. To supply the American lawyer

* Mr. Cooper had seen only the second edition of 1788.

and merchant with such a work is the principal design of the author of the present volume.

The *first* chapter contains the act of Congress, with *marginal* references to those parts of the British statutes which contain the same or similar provisions.—The *second* chapter exhibits a transcript of all the sections of the various statutes whichconstitute the British system, with references in the margin to the correspondent parts of the American law. But the differences which occur between the two systems are not designated with sufficient clearness and certainty, and this great and leading object seems, in some degree, to be lost sight of in the progress of the work.

As no decisions of our own courts yet exist, the author could only offer his opinion, or suggest a doubt, on those parts of our system which depart from that of Great-Britain. This he has done with becoming diffidence, and his *queries* may be of use in leading the reader to a more close investigation of the subject. He seems to consider the judges of the several districts who issue commissions, as possessing a superintending power over the commissioners, similar to that of an English chancellor. We are inclined to the opinion that this is the true construction of the act, though we have not yet known any exercise of such authority.

The greatest portion of this volume consists of the adjudications of the courts of Westminster Hall. The point in question, or principle established by the court, is stated, and the books of reports containing the cases and decisions are quoted. To determine whether all these principles are accurately digested, or the references correctly made, would demand more attention and labour than we think it necessary to bestow on a work of this nature. So far as we are able to judge from recollection, they appear, in general, to be correct, though some considerable errors, we think, will occur to the professional reader who is familiar with the subject.

In every thing which relates to the British law, more ample and correct information will be obtained from COOKE and CULLEN, whose works will be perused, by the studious lawyer, with far more profit and pleasure.

But though little is added by our author to the general stock of professional knowledge, his book, like many others which find a place in the lawyer's library, is worthy of perusal, as containing some original matter, and some things not original, which being necessary to be understood and remembered, may well be examined in every point of view in which different writers exhibit them.

A chief excellence of a compendium of this kind consists in the methodical and luminous display of the subject.—In the arrangement and distribution of the several parts of his work, Mr. C. has not shown sufficient attention or judgment. The divisions are so few, that too many matters are brought under one head, which creates confusion and needless repetition. Should he have occasion, hereafter, to republish his work, he would do well to improve it in this respect.

The *appendix* contains a variety of *precedents*, adapted to the use of the American lawyer. He might have been much more liberal in pruning the redundancies of the *English forms*. Much of that needless prolixity which pervades them might have been retrenched, without injury to their meaning or force. The commission and some of the process is made to run in the name of the President of the United States. To us this appears new, nor do we perceive the reason or propriety of it.

"A Summary View of the Law of France concerning Bankrupts," and the "Law of Spain concerning Bankrupts," are useful additions to this volume. The former was furnished the author by M. Du Ponceau, and is written with conciseness and perspicuity. To the liberal and scientific lawyer, the comparison of the laws and usages of different countries is always a source of instruction and delight.

Two cases are subjoined, containing the opinions of foreign jurists on the effect of the Bankrupt Laws of England and America.

The first is that of an attachment by a French creditor of a debt due to an English bankrupt, in which two eminent advocates of the Parliament of Paris were of opinion, that the debts due by foreigners to an English bankrupt belonged to the assignees of the bankrupt, and ought to go with his other property, to be distributed among the creditors at large. The other case is that of a Frenchman, who, having resided in Philadelphia, and become a bankrupt, had obtained his certificate under the laws of Pennsylvania. The French advocates consulted on this occasion were of opinion that the bankrupt was as effectually protected in France as he would be in Pennsylvania from suits against him for debts contracted previous to his bankruptcy.

The typographical errors in this volume are uncommonly numerous, and must disgust the lovers of accurate editions of books.

ARTICLE X.

Wieland, or the Transformation. An American Tale. 12mo. pp. 298. T. & J. Swords. 1798.

A GREEK Bishop is said to have been the first *romance* writer. His work was condemned by an ecclesiastical synod, as dangerous to the morals of youth; and the author, rather than resign or suppress his book, relinquished his bishoprick. This was a proof either of licentiousness in the prelate, or of unreasonable prejudice in his brethren. The readers of romances have been no less pertinacious and incorrigible in their attachment to this species of writing than this dignified instructor of mankind; for, in spite of the censures of the pious and the frowns of the moralist, it continued, for many ages, to be popular in Europe until the spread of purer religion and morals, and the general cultivation of classical literature, brought them into contempt and neglect. The ancient romances were certainly pernicious to morals and taste; and every sober man who has any regard for either must rejoice that they have been exploded; though he may yet find some cause for censure in that form of fictitious history which has succeeded, and may deplore the ravages made by the inundation of modern novels.

It is a circumstance of considerable weight in favour of novels, that men of undoubted piety and benevolence have been writers as well as readers of them. No species of composition is more universally read, since none so powerfully excites curiosity and sympathy, the active principles of every human being. Truths inculcated in the more solemn forms of instruction make slighter impressions, and have less influence on the great mass of mankind, than when practically illustrated by examples which come home to the apprehension and feelings of every class of men, and in which every reader, in some degree, finds the sentiments of his own heart and the incidents of his own life, reflected before him. It is not surprising, therefore, that men of deep insight into the springs of human action, as well as rigid moralists, have approved and practised this mode of teaching virtue. Like every other power over the imaginations and conduct of men, when exercised by the ingenious and benevolent, it is conducive to the noblest purposes; but, in the hands of the licentious and immoral, it is liable to be abused and perverted.

The love of *novelty* is universal and inextinguishable, and it is in works of imagination that it finds its most ample gratification. To this passion, so deeply rooted in human nature, is every species of composition, narrative or dramatic, real or fictitious, principally indebted for its interest and success. The bulk of mankind, restless and impatient, seek, in the variety and change of real or imaginary objects, relief from the tedious uniformity of common life. While amusement only is sought in opening a volume, effects the most serious and durable may be produced on the imagination and heart of the reader. It is only to be desired that these effects should be always favourable to the cause of virtue.

To condemn wholly this mode of writing, and to proscribe novels from the world, would evince more zeal than justice or good sense. It cannot be denied that the greater number of novel writers appear to have had no better motives than the desire of gain, or the hope of some portion of literary fame, and have paid little attention to the moral effects of their productions. Yet why should the benefactors of the human race, those who seek to inform, instruct and direct the conduct of men, regard this class of writers with unmingled contempt, and wholly neglect so obvious and popular means of inculcating and enforcing the principles of morality?

The author of Wieland is almost the first American who has adventured in this path of literature, and this production is the first of the kind which has attracted much public attention. Observing the great avidity with which some popular British novels are read, and which are indebted for much of the interest they excite to the wonder-working powers of gothic machinery, he has sought to profit by this love of the marvellous, to display and illustrate some remarkable properties in the physical and moral constitution of man.

He has availed himself of a real but extraordinary faculty, heretofore unnoticed by the novelist, and imperfectly known to the natural philosopher. The effects produced by such a power are sufficiently mysterious and wonderful to keep curiosity active, and to constitute a machinery, if such it may be called, more dignified and instructive than ruined castles, imaginary spectres, and the monkish fictions of modern romance.

Whatever may be thought of the practical utility of this species of narrative, the praise of a vigorous and creative fancy, and of strong talents for moral description, cannot be denied to our author.

The principal incidents, however incredible and shocking, are founded on well authenticated facts,* and are sublime and tragical in the highest degree.

The first and second chapters are occupied in relating some incidents in the life of the *elder* Wieland, and his extraordinary death. This part of the narrative is lucid and impressive; and though not immediately connected with the principal story, yet the strong effect of these events on the mind of the younger Wieland, is conducive to the part which he acts in the dreadful scenes that follow.

The elder Wieland is represented as a gloomy and visionary enthusiast, who retires to a solitary edifice to perform his accustomed midnight devotions, and there receives the stroke of death, under circumstances so mysterious as to be thought miraculous by his children.—This event is thus described:

"An half hour passed away in this state of suspense. Her eyes were fixed upon the rock; suddenly it was illuminated. A light proceeding from the edifice, made every part of the scene visible. A gleam diffused itself over the intermediate space, and instantly a loud report, like the explosion of a mine, followed. She uttered an involuntary shriek; but the new sounds that greeted her ear, quickly conquered her surprise. They were piercing shrieks, and uttered without intermission. The gleams which had diffused themselves far and wide were in a moment withdrawn, but the interior of the edifice was filled with rays.

"The first suggestion was that a pistol was discharged, and that the structure was on fire. She did not allow herself time to meditate a second thought, but rushed into the entry and knocked loudly at the door of her brother's chamber. My uncle had been previously roused by the noise, and instantly flew to the window. He also imagined what he saw to be fire. The loud and vehement shrieks which succeeded the first explosion, seemed to be an invocation of succour. The incident was inexplicable; but he could not fail to perceive the propriety of hastening to the spot. He was unbolting the door, when his sister's voice was heard on the outside conjuring him to come forth.

"He obeyed the summons with all the speed in his power. He stopped not to question her, but hurried down stairs and across the meadow which lay between the house and the rock. The shrieks were no longer to be heard; but a blazing light

* See New-York Weekly Magazine, vol. ii. p. 20—28.

was clearly discernible between the columns of the temple. Irregular steps, hewn in the stone, led him to the summit. On three sides this edifice touched the very verge of the cliff. On the fourth side, which might be regarded as the front, there was an area of small extent, to which the rude staircase conducted you. My uncle speedily gained this spot. His strength was for a moment exhausted by his haste. He paused to rest himself. Meanwhile he bent the most vigilant attention towards the object before him.

"Within the columns he beheld what he could no better describe, than by saying that it resembled a cloud impregnated with light. It had the brightness of flame, but was without its upward motion. It did not occupy the whole area, and rose but a few feet above the floor. No part of the building was on fire. This appearance was astonishing. He approached the temple. As he went forward the light retired, and, when he put his feet within the apartment, utterly vanished. The suddenness of this transition increased the darkness that succeeded in a tenfold degree. Fear and wonder rendered him powerless. An occurrence like this, in a place assigned to devotion, was adapted to intimidate the stoutest heart.

"His wandering thoughts were recalled by the groans of one near him. His sight gradually recovered its power, and he was able to discern my father stretched on the floor. At that moment my mother and servants arrived with a lanthorn, and enabled my uncle to examine more closely this scene. My father, when he left the house, besides a loose upper vest and slippers, wore a shirt and drawers. Now he was naked. His skin, throughout the greater part of his body, was scorched and bruised. His right arm exhibited marks as of having been struck by some heavy body. His clothes had been removed, and it was not immediately perceived that they were reduced to ashes. His slippers and his hair were untouched.

"He was removed to his chamber, and the requisite attention paid to his wounds, which gradually became more painful. A mortification speedily showed itself in the arm which had been most hurt. Soon after the other wounded parts exhibited the like appearance.

"Immediately subsequent to this disaster my father seemed nearly in a state of insensibility. He was passive under every operation. He scarcely opened his eyes, and was with difficulty prevailed upon to answer the questions that were put to him. By his imperfect account, it appeared, that while engaged in silent orisons, with thoughts full of confusion and

anxiety, a faint gleam suddenly shot athwart the apartment. His fancy immediately pictured to itself a person bearing a lamp. It seemed to come from behind. He was in the act of turning to examine the visitant, when his right arm received a blow from a heavy club. At the same instant a very bright spark was seen to light upon his clothes. In a moment the whole was reduced to ashes. This was the sum of the information which he chose to give. There was somewhat in his manner that indicated an imperfect tale. My uncle was inclined to believe that half the truth had been suppressed.

"Meanwhile, the disease, thus wonderfully generated, betrayed more terrible symptoms. Fever and delirium terminated in lethargic slumber, which, in the course of two hours, gave place to death: yet not till insupportable exhalations and crawling putrefaction had driven from his chamber and the house every one whom their duty did not detain."

Reference is made, in a note, to two cases similar to the one here related, reported in a Journal of Florence, and in the "Journal de Medecine," by Messrs. Merille and Muraire. We find these cases mentioned in the fourth volume of the *Literary Magazine* (p. 336), part of which we shall extract for the satisfaction of the curious and philosophical reader.

"Don G. Maria Bertholi, a priest, residing at Mount Valere, in the district of Livizzano, went to the fair of Filetto, on account of some business which he had to transact, and after spending the whole day in going about through the neighbouring country, in order to execute commissions, in the evening he walked towards Fenille, and stopped at the house of one of his brothers-in-law, who resided there. No sooner had he arrived than he desired to be conducted to his apartment, where he put a handkerchief between his shoulders and his shirt, and when every body retired, he began to repeat his breviary. A few minutes after a loud noise was heard in Mr. Bertholi's chamber, and his cries having alarmed the family, they hastened to the spot, where they found him extended on the floor, and surrounded by a faint flame, which retired to a greater distance in proportion as it was approached, and at length disappeared entirely. Having conveyed him to bed, such assistance as seemed necessary was given him. Next morning I was called, and after examining the patient carefully, I found that the teguments of the right arm were almost entirely detached from the flesh, and hanging loose, as well as the skin of the lower part of it. In the space contained between the shoulders

and the thigh, the teguments were as much injured as those of the right arm. The first thing, therefore, to be done, was to take away those pieces of skin, and perceiving that a mortification was begun in that part of the right hand which had received the greatest hurt, I scarified it without loss of time; but notwithstanding this precaution, I found it next day, as I had suspected the preceding evening, entirely sphacelous. On my third visit, all the other wounded parts appeared to be in the same condition. The patient complained of an ardent thirst, and was agitated with dreadful convulsions. He voided by stool bilious putrid matter, and was distressed by a continual vomiting, accompained with a violent fever and delirium. At length, the fourth day, after a comatose sleep of two hours, he expired. During my last visit, whilst he was sunk in the lethargic sleep of which I have spoken, I observed, with astonishment, that putrefaction had already made so great progress, that his body exhaled an insupportable smell. I saw the worms which issued from it crawling on the bed, and the nails of his fingers drop of themselves; so that I thought it needless to attempt any thing farther, whilst he was in this deplorable condition.

"Having taken care to get every possible information from the patient himself respecting what had happened to him, he told me that he had felt a stroke, as if somebody had given him a blow over the right arm with a large club, and that, at the same time, he had seen a spark of fire attach itself to his shirt, which, in a moment, was reduced to ashes, though the fire did not in the least injure the wristbands. The handkerchief which he had placed upon his shoulders, between his shirt and the skin, was perfectly entire, without the least appearence of burning; his drawers were untouched, but his night-cap was destroyed, though a single hair of his head was not hurt.

"That this flame, under the form of elementary fire, burnt the skin, reduced the shirt to ashes, and entirely consumed the night-cap, without in the least touching the hair, is a fact which I affirm to be true; besides, every symptom that appeared on the body of the deceased announced severe burning. The night was calm, and the circumambient air very pure; no bitumenous smell could be perceived in the chamber, nor was there the least trace of fire or of smoke. A lamp, however, which had been full of oil was found dry, and the wick almost in ashes. We cannot reasonably suppose this fatal accident to have been occasioned by any external cause, and I have no doubt, that if Maffei were still alive he would take advantage

of it to support an opinion which he entertained, that lightning is sometimes kindled within the human body, and destroys it.

"The above observations respecting Mr. Bertholi, naturally bring to our remembrance the fate of the unfortunate Countess Cornelia Bandi, of Verona, concerning whom the Canon Bianchini has published the details collected by Dr. Cromwell Mortimer, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, with some similar facts, to which we may add others more recent, such as the observations which Mr. Merille and Mr. Muraire inserted in the *Journal de Medecine*, for the months of February and May, 1783.

"The authors of these different observations, almost of the same nature, remark, that those subjected to such accidents were, for the most part, advanced in years, remarkably fat, and had been much addicted to the use of spirituous liquors, either in their drink, or applied in frictions to the body; whence they have concluded, that these people had perished by their whole substance spontaneously taking fire, the principal seat of which had been the entrails or the epigastric viscera, and that the exciting cause was naturally found in the phlogiston of the animal humours, called forth by that of the spirituous liquors combined with the latter."

It will be perceived that the incidents related of Wieland are the same which accompanied the death of the unfortunate Bertholi.

An event so extraordinary and deplorable, it may well be supposed, produced the most deep and awful impressions on the family of Wieland.

Young Wieland regarded the death of his father as the effect of supernatural agency, and, possessing an ardent imagination, it assumed a predominant influence over his future character, and fashioned his mind to melancholy and superstition.

Such a cast of mind, and such incidents as are here introduced, serve to render more probable the subsequent events of this affecting story.

Having said so much on the introductory chapters, we must be excused for deferring our account of the remainder of this volume to our next number; when we shall more particularly examine its merits as a literary production, and the claims of its author as a writer and moralist.

The rarity of this species of writing among us, as well as the nature and character of the performance, will, we trust, be a sufficient apology for the length to which this review may be extended.

ARTICLE XI.

The Dignity of Man, especially as displayed in Civil Government: A Sermon, preached on the General Election at Hartford, in Connecticut, May 14, 1801. *By* Benjamin Trumbull, *D. D. Pastor of the Church in North-Haven.* 8vo. pp. 39. *Hartford.* Hudson & Goodwin. 1801.

OUR readers, it is presumed, are generally informed, that, in the State of Connecticut, the annual election at Hartford is always attended with a religious solemnity. A clergyman of the State is appointed by the Governor to deliver a sermon on the occasion, which is regularly, as a matter of course, committed to the press. For the current year Dr. Trumbull was appointed to perform this service; and we have before us the sermon which, in conformity to this appointment, he delivered at the last election.

Called to address his fellow citizens, when convened to exercise one of the most important rights of freemen, he chose as his subject of discourse the *dignity of man.* The choice was happy; and Dr. T. has discussed the subject which he selected in a manner which indicates good sense, piety, and a cordial solicitude for the public welfare and happiness. His plan is, 1. To give some sketches of the dignity and capacity of man. 2. To show how this dignity is displayed in civil government, or what it is for rulers to *show themselves men.* And, 3. To point out the importance of rulers acting in character, agreeably to the dignity and excellence of human nature. On each of these heads he makes many excellent remarks, and delivers opinions which are, in general, indisputably correct, whether viewed in a political or theological light. We are particularly pleased to observe the care with which he avoids party violence and irritation, in these "*evil times* on which we are fallen."

When speaking of the dignity of man, Dr. T. expresses himself in the following manner:

"Man is capable of the most signal usefulness and enjoyment in time and in eternity. In a variety of respects his Creator hath exalted him, and put a matchless dignity upon him. Though by his apostacy he hath lost the moral image of God, and in that respect the crown is fallen from his head, the gold is changed,

and the most fine gold is become dim, yet he still retains resemblances of his natural image, and, in many respects, is a glorious creature. He is a master-piece of divine workmanship; fearfully and wonderfully made. The erectness of his stature, the convenience and usefulness of his members, the wisdom with which they are all placed, the beauty and majesty of his countenance, the gift of language, and harmony of his voice, are endowments by which he is distinguished and exalted above all creatures in this lower system of worlds. But his intelligent soul more especially gives him his dignity and inestimable worth. This is a bright resemblance of the natural perfections of his common father. He is a spirit—so is the soul of man: he is all intelligence and activity—and so is the human mind. Man is the living image of the living God. In him is displayed more of the image and glory of the Deity than in all his other works below the sun.

"The worth and dignity of man appear in his capacity, in the great and noble atchievements and works which he hath done and is capable of doing. He is capable of thought, reflection, reasoning, consciousness, volition, and extensive knowledge—Of contemplating himself, the heavens, the earth and seas, the variety of creatures and things which they contain, with their natures and usefulness—Of speaking of trees, *from the cedar that is in Lebanon, even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall**—Of discovering their various uses, whether for food or physic, for navigation or commerce, for personal or national emolument—And of employing all creatures, elements, trees, plants, herbs and shrubs of every country and climate, for his own profit, convenience and pleasure.

"He is capable of rising instantaneously, in his contemplations, from earth to the heavens; of travelling among stars and planets; of measuring their distances and magnitudes; and of making vast discoveries in philosophy and astronomy; of rising still higher, from the contemplations of nature, to the far more important and pleasing contemplations of nature's God. He can plan and effect wonderful works; erect cities and kingdoms, found and govern empires. If we look back to the effects of ancient times, in the land of Shinar, Egypt and Palestine, what glorious works there presented themselves, where Babel, Babylon, Ninevah and the Pyramids, which have been the wonder of the world, were erected! Where stood Jerusalem, the holy temple, and all

* "1 Kings iv. 33."

the magnificent works of Solomon! If we survey the kingdoms of Europe, what superb works attract our view, and fill us with astonishment!

"How great and useful have been the writings of men in every learned profession! What thanks do the world owe to Hippocrates, Boerhaave, and to several modern writers, for their discoveries and communications in the healing art! To Hale, Cook, Littleton, Moutesquieu and others, for the light which they have thrown upon the laws of nature and nations, and upon jurisprudence in general! How have Locke, Sir Isaac Newton, Franklin, and other logicians and philosophers, enlarged the boundaries of human knowledge! With what admiration do we view the works of theologians! of Pool, Owen, Perkins, Twiss and others! What changes have they effected! Paul propagated and established christianity through the heathen world; and the pens and eloquence of Luther and Calvin wrought the glorious Protestant revolution.

"May I not with equal propriety mention the more modern, but not less signal and important works, the American Revolution, effected by the energies of the sword and pen of a Washington, aided by the other sages and heroes of America? the peace negociated by those renowned men, Adams, Franklin and Jay? the constitution of the United States, the councils and labours by which, in the course of a few years, they have been elevated to such a distinguished point of power, respectability, opulence and prosperity? Do not all these proclaim the capacity, the dignity and worth of man?"

After going through the formal divisions of his subject, Dr. T. concludes with some appropriate remarks and addresses on the occasion upon which his auditors were convened. In these there is a degree of seriousness, dignity, and judgment, which must give pleasure to every reader.

Having had so often occasion to express our opinion of this respectable divine as a writer, we shall say less on the style and manner of the present composition than might otherwise be proper. The reader of taste will perceive, in the passages above quoted, many superfluous words, and some forms of expression which a careful writer would not have used. The same remark applies to many other passages in the course of the sermon. We think this, however, in several respects, a better constructed discourse than that, by the same author, which we announced in our last number.

ARTICLE XII.

Observations on the Language of the Muhhekaneew Indians; in which the Extent of that Language in North-America is shown; its Genius is grammatically traced; some of its Peculiarities, and some Instances of Analogy between that and the Hebrew are pointed out. Communicated to the Connecticut Society of Arts and Sciences, and published at the Request of the Society. By Jonathan Edwards, *D.D. Pastor of a Church in New-Haven, and Member of the Connecticut Society of Arts and Sciences.* 8vo. pp. 16. *New-York.* M. L. & W. A. Davis. 1801.

THE opening this pamphlet, with a view to lay some account of it before our readers, brought to our minds a most painful remembrance of the loss which the public has lately sustained by the death of its reverend author. Few men were more fitted, or more disposed to be useful, than Dr. Edwards. Endowed with an active and penetrating mind, he consecrated his powers to the promotion of human happiness. And in taking a retrospect of his character and deportment, it is difficult to say whether he was most distinguished for his talents, his learning, his piety, or that unassuming modesty which is not always a concomitant of genius and erudition.

He early in life devoted himself to the gospel ministry, and was many years pastor of a congregational church in New-Haven, in the State of Connecticut. In this situation, although, from a defective elocution, he was by no means ranked among the most *popular* preachers, yet, in his pulpit performances, he never failed to discover that good sense, acuteness, and unaffected piety, which interest and instruct the more enlightened classes of hearers. From the discharge of his pastoral functions in Connecticut, he was called, by the trustees of *Union College*, at Schenectady, in the State of New-York, to take the office of President in that institution. He complied with this invitation; and, for near three years, discharged the duties of his new and arduous office with approved fidelity, and with distinguished abilities. In this career of honourable usefulness he was unexpectedly cut off, a few weeks ago, justly and universally lamented.

Those only who had the happiness of being acquainted with Dr. Edwards, were able justly to estimate the ardour of his piety, and his many private virtues. But the extent of his information, the strength of his reasoning powers, and the zeal for truth, which made so conspicuous a part of his character, were made more generally known by his writings. His Treatise on the Doctrine of *Universal Salvation*, particularly designed to refute the arguments of Dr. Chauncey on that subject; and his publication on the *Human Will*, intended to explain and support the opinions of his venerable father, as contained in his celebrated work on the *Will*, will do lasting honour to his memory, both as a divine and a philosopher. Besides these, he published a variety of other smaller treatises and single sermons, which have been read with pleasure by many of the friends of piety and virtue.—The loss of such a man, in the meridian of life, we doubt not, is lamented as a public calamity by all who knew him.

We make no apology for prefacing our review of the pamphlet before us by these remarks. To every reader who is disposed to cherish the memory of solid worth, this tribute of respect will be an acceptable offering.

The *Observations on the Language of the Muhhekaneew Indians*, contained in this pamphlet, were first read before the *Connecticut Society of Arts and Sciences*, in 1787, and by that body directed to be published. The publication accordingly took place soon afterwards; so that the present, though not formally announced in the title-page as such, is a new edition.

Dr. E. in his *preface*, gives the following account of the advantages he enjoyed for acquiring a knowledge of the Indian language concerning which he writes.

"When I was about six years of age, my father removed with his family to Stockbridge, which at that time, was inhabited by Indians almost solely; as there were in the town but twelve families of whites or Anglo-Americans, and perhaps one hundred and fifty families of Indians. The Indians being the nearest neighbours, I constantly associated with them; their boys were my daily school-mates and play-fellows. Out of my father's house I seldom heard any language spoken beside the Indian. By these means I acquired the knowledge of that language, and a great facility in speaking it. It became more familiar to me than my mother tongue. I knew the names of some things in Indian which I did not know in English; even all my thoughts ran in Indian: and though the true pronunci-

ation of the language is extremely difficult to all but themselves, they acknowledged, that I had acquired it perfectly; which, as they said, never had been acquired before by any Anglo-American. On account of this acquisition, as well as on account of my skill in their language in general, I received from them many compliments applauding my superior wisdom. This skill in their language I have in a good measure retained to this day.

"After I had drawn up these observations, lest there should be some mistakes in them, I carried them to Stockbridge, and read them to Capt. *Yoghum*, a principal Indian of the tribe, who is well versed in his own language, and tolerably informed concerning the English, and availed myself of his remarks and corrections.

"From these facts the reader will form his own opinion of the truth and accuracy of what is now offered him.

"When I was in my tenth year, my father sent me among the Six Nations, with a design that I should learn their language, and thus become qualified to be a missionary among them. But on account of the war with France, which then existed, I continued among them but about six months. Therefore the knowledge which I acquired of that language was but imperfect; and at this time I retain so little of it that I will not hazard any particular critical remarks on it. I may observe, however, that though the words of the two languages are totally different, yet their structure is in some respects analogous, particularly in the use of prefixes and suffixes."

Dr. E. gives the following information concerning the tribe whose language is the subject of these "Observations."

"The language which is now the subject of observation is that of the *Muhhekaneew* or Stockbridge Indians. They, as well as the tribe at New-London, are, by the Anglo-Americans, called *Mohegans*, which is a corruption of *Muhhekaneew*,* in the singular, or *Muhhekaneok* in the plural. This language is spoken by all the Indians throughout New-England. Every tribe, as that of Stockbridge, that of Farmington, that of New-London, &c. has a different dialect; but the language is radically the same. Mr. Eliot's translation of the Bible is in a particular dialect of this language, the dialect followed in these observations is that of Stockbridge. This language appears to be much more exten-

* "Wherever *w* occurs in an Indian word, it is a mere consonant; as in *work, world, &c.*"

sive than any other language in North-America. The languages of the Delawares, in Pennsylvania, of the Penobscots bordering on Nova-Scotia, of the Indians of St. Francis in Canada, of the Shawanese on the Ohio, and of the Chippewaus at the westward of lake Huron, are all radically the same with the Mohegan. The same is said concerning the languages of the Ottowaus, Nanticooks, Munsees, Menomonees, Messisaugas, Sukees, Ottagaumies, Killistinoes, Nipegons, Algonkins, Winnebagoes, &c. That the languages of the several trides in New-England, of the Delawares, and of Mr. Eliot's bible, are radically the same with the Mohegan, I assert from my own knowledge. What I assert concerning the language of the Penobscots, I have from a gentleman in Massachusetts, who has been much conversant among the Indians. That the languages of the Shawanese and Chippewaus is radically the same with the Mohegan, I shall endeavour to show. My authorities for what I say of the languages of the other nations are Capt. *Yoghum*, before mentioned, and *Carver's Travels.*"

The principal object of these "Observations" is to point out some circumstances of resemblance between the language of the *Muhhekaneew* Indians and the *Hebrew*. These resemblances are said to consist chiefly in certain *prefixes* and *suffixes* which belong to the former, and which were long considered as a remarkable peculiarity of the latter; together with some curious instances of analogy in the construction of particular words signifying the same thing in both languages. These resemblances are traced with a skilful hand, and discover, at once, considerable information and close attention. Dr. E. then suggests a query whether these resemblances do not go far toward proving that the North-American Indians are of *Hebrew*, or, at least, of *Asiatic* extraction.—After having attended to all that Dr. E. has urged in favour of this opinion, on the score of language; and to what Mr. Adair, a much more extensive, but, perhaps, less accurate writer, and some others, have offered in proof of the Hebrew origin of Indians, we have much doubt whether there is good reason to consider them as remnants of Jewish tribes; though we readily acknowledge that some of the considerations adduced in support of this idea are not without weight. But that these people, who have lately employed so much of the attention of speculative men, are of Asiatic origin, is an opinion which seems every day to gain new confirmation. We consider it by far the most probable of any that has come to our knowledge.

This pamphlet displays a considerable portion of that acquaintance with language, and that cautious spirit of inquiry, for which its author was so much distinguished; and which were among the many excellences that render his premature removal a loss to his country.

ARTICLE XIII.

A Sermon preached before the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at their Semi-annual Meeting, June 9, 1801. *By* Jedidiah Morse, *D. D. Pastor of the Congregational Church in Charlestown.* 8vo. pp. 53. *Boston.* J. & T. Fleet. 1801.

THE "Humane Society of Massachusetts" was instituted in the year 1784. Its design is "to promote the cause of humanity generally, by pursuing such means as have for their object the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries." It consists of some of the most respectable gentlemen in the commonwealth; and its exertions, we are told, have proved, in many instances, remarkably useful.

The sermon before us was delivered at one of the stated meetings of this association, and breathes a spirit entirely congenial with the character and views of the audience in the presence of which it was pronounced. The passage of scripture selected as the foundation of discourse is Proverbs xi. 17. *The merciful man doth good to his own soul.* From this text the author gives "a brief display of the *character*, *duties*, and *rewards* of the merciful." This he does in a style of simplicity, good sense, and piety becoming the pulpit and the occasion.

The institution of numerous humane societies, the liberal endowments which many of them have received, and the zealous attention paid to them by some of the most distinguished members of the community, form one of the honourable peculiarities of the eighteenth century. For all gentlemen who devote their time and their talents to such laudable purposes, the best wish we can form is, that they may enjoy the satisfaction of seeing the utility of their labours.—Dr. Morse informs us, that, since the institution of the society

which he addressed, "159 persons, apparently dead, by various accidents," have been restored to life and their friends by means of its exertions. The simple statement of this fact carries with it higher commendation of the benevolent plan, and its worthy supporters, than any language of eulogium that we could dictate.

To the sermon there is added a large *appendix*, containing various interesting communications relating to the exertions and success of the society; an account of its funds; a view of its premiums and other expenditures; the names of the officers and newly elected members; and, finally, some directions with respect to the best means of restoring suspended animation in the common cases which occur—the whole forming an amount of instruction, precept and exhortation on the subject, which, by the humane reader, will be accounted highly valuable.

Dr. M.'s character as a writer is so well known in the United States, that we forbear to make any other remark on this discourse, in a literary view, than that it will by no means lessen his reputation.

ARTICLE XIV.

Discourses, delivered on Public Occasions, illustrating the Principles, displaying the Tendency, and vindicating the Design, of Free Masonry. By Thaddeus Mason Harris, *Past Grand Chaplain to the Grand Lodge, and Chaplain to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts.* 8vo, pp. 348. *Charlestown.* Etheridge. 1801.

MR. Harris, the author of this volume, is a gentleman who has been long known, in the State in which he lives, as an accomplished scholar and a good writer. He observes, in his valedictory discourse, that he had "been repeatedly called upon, as Chaplain to the Grand Lodge, both to lead the devotional exercises, and to perform the preceptive duties on public consecrations and festivals; and that, during the course of this service, he had endeavoured, by the best of his abilities, to illustrate the genius and to vindicate the principles of the institution; and while inculcating upon the members a regard to its duties, to impress the community at large with a favourable

opinion of its design and tendency."—The discourses delivered on those occasions compose the present volume.

Mr. H. has certainly shown himself an able advocate in the cause of Free Masonry. Perhaps we may allow him the credit of having exhibited his subject in more interesting and favourable points of view than any writer who has preceded him in the same path. He discovers the sincere and fervent piety of the christian, adorned with the grace of the well-bred scholar.

His style is sometimes injured in its easy flow and harmony by the use of harsh and awkward words, such as *exemplariness, disinterestedness, timorousness, inoffensiveness, blamelessness, discontentedness, &c. Chiefest* is not allowable; and *bestowment* is used without any authority. On the whole, however, we feel justified in pronouncing a favourable verdict on his composition. He seems to have taken Blair for his model, and is no unsuccessful imitator.

Without further remarks we present the following extracts, which will serve to show his manner of treating his subject. Thus he eulogizes Free Masonry:

"All its plans are pacific. It co-operates with our blessed religion in regulating the tempers, restraining the passions, sweetening the dispositions, and harmonizing the discordant interests of men; breathes a spirit of universal love and benevolence; adds one thread more to the silken cord of evangelical charity which binds man to man; and seeks to intwine the cardinal virtues and the christian graces in the web of the affections and the drapery of the conduct. In its bosom flows cheerily the milk of human kindness; and its heart expands with love and good will. It wears 'the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.' In one hand it holds out *the olive branch* of peace; and in the other the liberal donation of charity.

"While Masonry thus aids the cause of virtue, by giving additional weight to moral obligations, it promotes public happiness, by enjoining a ready submission to the wholesome laws and regulations of civil society.

"In all countries, and in all ages, '*the true and accepted*' have been found to conduct as peaceable citizens, and acknowledged to be the firm and decided supporters of good order, government and religion. How much, then, are we surprised to find opposers to an association whose whole law is peace, and whose whole disposition is love; which is known to discourage, by an express prohibition, the introduction and discussion of political or religious topics in its assemblies; and which forbids, in the most positive and solemn manner, all plots, conspiracies and rebellions. But, notwithstanding the

ignorant mistake, and the prejudiced censure the society, we are persuaded that its *real* character is too well known, and its credit too well supported, to be injured by their misrepresentations, or destroyed by their invectives. When they charge us with demoralizing principles, we will tell them that some of the most orthodox and respectable *clergymen* are of our order; and when they impute to us disorganizing attempts, we will remind them that WASHINGTON is our patron and friend."

Again, in p. 79 and 142, he defends the institution in the following spirited style:

"Though the manner and the measure of our charity be a profound secret, yet it is generally known that our institution establishes a fund for charity, and provides resources for the unfortunate; and that it superadds to the common law of our nature, and the express injunctions of religion, another reason for the exercise of benevolence, and another motive to the bestowment of generosity. And you, my brethren, have often felt with what engaging and persuasive emphasis the importance of *brotherly love*, *relief*, and *truth*, are inculcated in our lectures. The first renders us *affectionate*, the second *generous*, the third *just*. To brotherly kindness is added charity; and both are crowned with fidelity, and secured with justice.

"Our excellent *book of constitutions* has asserted,* what I am sure your own hearts witness, that, "to afford succour to the distressed, to divide our bread with the industrious poor, and to put the misguided traveller into the way, are duties of the craft, suitable to its dignity and expressive of its usefulness. But, though a Mason is never to shut his ear unkindly against the complaints of any of the human race, yet, when a *brother* is oppressed or suffers, he is in a more peculiar manner called upon to open his whole soul in love and compassion to him, and to relieve him, without prejudice, according to his capacity.'

"At the present day, when every thing is suspected which is not fully known; when the very circumstance of mysteries in christianity is made an excuse for infidelity; when all ancient establishments are become objects of jealousy; and the very best things are either neglected or contemned; who, or what, shall be certain of exemption from 'the strife of tongues?' and how can we be surprised that the institution of Free Ma-

* "Chapter i. section 3."

sonry has met with secret and open enemies; that the ignorant mistake, and the prejudiced defame it?"

The following passage affords another favourable specimen of our author's manner.

"It is *a moral order* of enlightened men, founded on a sublime, rational, and manly *piety*, and pure and active *virtue;* with the praise-worthy design of recalling to our remembrance the most interesting truths in the midst of the most sociable and innocent pleasures, and of promoting, without ostentation, or hope of reward, the most diffusive *benevolence*, the most generous and extensive *philanthropy*, and the most warm and affectionate *brotherly love*. The members are united together by particular obligations, and acquainted by certain *signs* and *tokens*, preserved with inviolable secrecy from remotest ages. These were originally adopted in order to distinguish one another with ease and certainty from the rest of the world—that impostures might not intrude upon their confidence and brotherly affection, nor intercept the fruits of their beneficence. They become *an universal language*, which, 'notwithstanding the confusion of foreign tongues, and the forbidding alienation of custom, draws from the heart of a stranger the acknowledgment of a brother, with all its attendant endearments.'

"The *decorations* and *symbols* of the craft, which are those of a very common and useful art,* and the *phraseology* which is borrowed from its higher orders, serve to characterize an institution which might justly claim more noble devices; and, at the same time, are used either as emblems or indications of the simplest and most important *moral truths*.

"It collects men of all nations and opinions into one amiable and permanent association, and binds them by new and irrefragable obligations to the discharge of every relative and moral duty; and thus becomes the most effectual support and brightest ornament of social life, and opens a wider channel for the current of benevolent affections, and a new source to human happiness.

"Its laws are *reason* and *equity;* its principles *benevolence* and *love;* and its religion *purity* and *truth*. Its intention is *peace on earth;* and its disposition *good will towards men*."

In the explication of the following passage in Revelations—*To him that overcometh will I give a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it*—he discovers much ingenuity, and presents a view of the subject which is, to us, wholly new.

* "Architecture."

"The other clause of the verse we are considering relates to a particular custom among the ancients, with which they commenced and perpetuated a refined friendship. For this purpose the contracting parties took a small piece of bone, ivory or stone, and, dividing it into equal and similar parts, one of the persons wrote his name upon one of these, and his friend upon the other; and they made a mutual exchange. This little ticket, or 'keep-sake,' was retained as a sacred pledge and remembrancer of an attachment the most sacred and inviolable, entire and permanent, that could be formed. Including the *word*, *sign*, and *token* of an endeared fraternity, it was the mean of ascertaining the object of the heart's affections after many years absence, and of securing for him a welcome to the privileges, and a share in the endearments of hospitality and love. Of course, the token was carefully preserved. Though, in itself considered, of smallest worth; yet, as the memorial of a highly esteemed friend, as it renewed those kind emotions of which he was the object, and called up a history on which the heart delighted to dwell, its value became inestimable. And, lest some one else should take the advantage of it, the possessor kept it with great privacy, and cautiously concealed from every one the name or mark engraved upon it."

This commentary is illustrated and supported by a well written dissertation, in the close of the book, on the *Tessera Hospitalis* of the ancient Romans. This passage is too long to transcribe, but it is worthy the attention of the learned and the curious. Several well written *Charges* finish the work.

We cannot close our review without recommending to every Lodge, as well as to every good Mason, the purchase of this book.

ARTICLE XV.

An Address delivered at the Request of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, at their Annual Meeting, May 29, 1801. *By* John Thornton Kirkland, *Pastor of the New South Church, Boston.* 8vo. pp. 14. *Boston.* Russell & Cutler. 1801.

THIS short address being delivered to a benevolent association, the author very properly selected *Benevolence* as the subject of discourse. The excellency of a benevolent spirit; the

obligations and motives which are presented for cherishing it; and the best means of exercising and displaying this temper, are the topics on which Mr. Kirkland expatiates. His sentiments are, in general, just—his illustrations indicative of judgment and taste—and his style neat, perspicuous, and lively.

ARTICLE XVI.

Two Discourses: 1. *On the Commencement of a new Year;* 2. *On the Completion of the Eighteenth Century: delivered in New-Haven; the former January* 4, *and the latter January* 11, 1801. *By* James Dana, *D. D.* 8vo. pp. 68. *New-Haven.* Morse. 1801.

THE design of these discourses is sufficiently expressed in the title-page. These words of the wise preacher—*One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever*—form the basis of both. As might naturally be expected from such a text, the author, in the first discourse, applies the sentiment which it contains to the vicissitudes of the past year; dwelling on the variety of life, the insufficiency of its joys to secure happiness to their possessor, the transitory nature of even this imperfect enjoyment, and the succession of new generations of men, new plans, pursuits and fashions, which form the history of the world; and contrasting with these the faithfulness of God, the permanency of his plans, and the immutability of his character. In the second discourse Dr. Dana applies the sentiment contained in the text to the changes of the century just completed. Extending his views beyond the lapse of a year, he directs his attention to the political revolutions, the moral changes, the improvements in literature and science, and especially the events in the Christian Church, which characterized the last age.—From these general sketches Dr. D. descends to a more particular account of the first settlement of Connecticut; the succession of its Governors, and its progress in population, wealth, and the establishment of religious institutions. After this he pays a more minute attention to New-Haven, and details some of the most remarkable facts relating to its civil and ecclesiastical history, from its foundation to the present

time.—These details are followed by general remarks and exhortations, addressed to the several classes of his hearers.

We remark, concerning these discourses, what we have had occasion to suggest with regard to others delivered at the same time, that they dwell too little on the signal and interesting events which characterize modern times, and abound too much with minute and trivial statements, more proper for notes, or an *appendix*, than the body of a solemn discourse. Dr. D. writes like a man of sound understanding, of fervent piety, and of much historical information; but we cannot help thinking that his subject opened a field for the display of some great and general views, of which he has not availed himself; and that he has preferred to fill his pages with matter, which, though worthy of being recorded, is certainly of subordinate value.

The following is a favourable specimen of Dr. D.'s manner. He is contrasting the immutability of the Divine plans, with regard to the Church, with the transitory nature of all temporal things.

"The christian church, through the middle ages, was overspread with gross darkness and superstition. But the sacred writings were preserved entire. From these fountains many minds might be savingly illuminated, notwithstanding the great apostacy of the members and principal officers of the church. The faithful, *flying into the wilderness from the fury of the Dragon, had a place prepared of God.* With his lively oracles, as *a light in a dark place*, they *held the mystery of faith in a pure conscience.*—Not indeed without a mixture of error. This can be said of no church, of no individual, in the most enlightened age. But pure Christianity, though not lost in those dark ages, was much encumbered and shaded. From the dawn of the reformation, many burning and shining lights have risen at different times, in different parts of Christendom. Though it was but for a season that the light of their personal ministry could be enjoyed; yet they continue to instruct mankind, by their unanswerable defence of the gospel against the bold attacks of the infidel; and by the rational view they have given of it, in opposition to bigotry, superstition, and fanaticism. Well informed protestants are at length generally agreed in allowing to all the right of private judgment, which is the basis of the reformation, and the only principle upon which Christianity can be defended.

"In some ages and countries the supporters of pure religion have been more numerous and conspicuous than in others.

Few or unobserved, comparatively, as they may have been in any age, they have been many more than those imagine, who confine religion to such as believe and worship with them. In every nation and communion there may be such as are accepted with God. How many real Christians may there be in different communions, who, though not generally known to the world, have power with God? There is, probably, most religion in the private walks of life. The generation that is passing away exclaim, that there is a deluge of vice unknown to former times. The generation that is rising up deny it, and give the preference to the present times. In this comparative view we *do not inquire wisely*. The scenery of the world shifts, while the state of nature, the course of affairs, and characters of men may be much the same."

Concerning the comparative situations of Europe and America, Dr. D. thus speaks:

"Looking over the history of Europe, we find it filled with war and desolation. In the sixteenth century, England had thirty-three years of war. In the seventeenth, thirty-seven years. In the eighteenth, more than forty. The years which are not consumed in war, are employed in preparing for it. Coalitions, treaties, guarantees, negociations are multiplied one upon another, in contravention of one another. What is the friendship between nations? The faith of treaties *is a right hand of falsehood.* The dominions of the potentates of the earth are *mountains of prey. Given to pleasures*, those who send forth their hundreds of thousands to war, feel no regret for the time, treasure and lives thrown away; or the famine and pestilence which war brings in her train. The spoils of humanity furnish them a triumph. They hear of *garments rolled in blood*, and give orders for public illumination and rejoicing.

"The war which has raged so long in Europe, the fury of which is still increasing, has exceeded former wars in bloodshed and desolation. United America wants not the means of being convinced, that an alliance with such *men of blood* must be equally foolish and hazardous. If any dependence is placed on treaties with them, disappointment will be the sure consequence. If America does not felicitate herself in her separation from that quarter of the globe, by an ocean of a thousand leagues—if she does not prize her own elective government, she must be ungrateful to God, and unjust to herself. She will merit the contempt and detestation of all wise men. Posterity will load her with execration.

"Had our revolution and government been conducted by men of similar principles and spirit with those who have conducted the revolution and government of France, we had been involved in like calamities as that devoted nation. The constitution, which we have solemnly sworn to support, might have been exchanged as often, and the change have been solemnized in like manner. Instead of mature, steady councils, we might have seen the capricious reign of terrorism in every shape. We might have seen an armed force surround the hall of Congress, to arrest and send into banishment our representatives and senators. We might have seen a foreigner usurp all the powers of the legislative and executive—a tribunate with power only to *debate* on measures which the usurper might propose—another department to *vote*, but not debate. Revolutionized France stands forth a spectacle and warning to all nations. Her government is a military government. We apprehended that she might frame a government on the principles of civil and religious liberty; therefore we wished her success at first. But instead of amending her own government, instead of setting a laudable example to her neighbours, she has subscribed to a system of despotism. She has deterred other nations from attempting a reform. She has taken up arms to spread *terror in the land of the living*. By disturbing and making a prey of other nations, she has declared that her cause is not the cause of freedom and human rights, but the contrary. She has thrown back the cause of liberty one century at least. Have we seen a single patriot, a single friend of liberty, a single philanthropist, among all who have conducted her affairs since the constitution of 1791? What nation, in modern times, has extended its ravages and exactions as this nation?

"We have purchased our freedom with a great sum. God forbid that we should not know how to prize it. By all that is dear in this world (may I not add, in the world to come?) is America solemnly warned against a confederacy with foreign powers—against learning foreign manners. While she *dwelleth alone*, she may *dwell in safety*. This sentiment is meant merely as a caution against *political* connections abroad—against the admission of *foreigners* to a participation in our government. The genius of America prompts her to a friendly and commercial intercourse with all nations."

To the sermons is added a body of notes, containing various articles of information respecting New-Haven and its neighbourhood, which will, no doubt, be considered peculiarly valuable by the inhabitants of that city.

On Dr. D.'s composition, considered in a literary view, we cannot bestow high praise. A succession of sharp sentences, harsh, unfinished periods, and violations of taste in the arrangement of his ideas, occur by far too frequently in a work of so little compass. "What has been *discoursed* teaches us," &c. (p. 16), "*deforce*" (p. 33), "however the cruelty, impiety and profligacy of Rome may have *faded*, from well known causes," &c. (p. 23), "*invincible* to obstacles" (p. 27). These, and many other forms of expression of a similar kind, to be found in these pages, we presume, must have escaped the venerable author from haste: They admit of no defence.

On the whole, we discover in these discourses much good sense and becoming seriousness; but little of that taste, either in the selection, the arrangement, or the expression of his ideas, which the highly respectable character of the writer led us to anticipate.

ARTICLE XVII.

Pardon of Sin in the Blood of Jesus: A Sermon, preached in Philadelphia, on the Evening of Sabbath the 31st of May, 1801. *By* John M. Mason, *A. M. Pastor of the Associate Reformed Church in the City of New-York.* 8vo. pp. 39. *New-York.* T. & J. Swords. 1801.

THE doctrine of the atonement lies at the foundation of christianity. It is natural, therefore, that the ministers of religion should regard this doctrine as of primary importance, make it the subject of frequent discourse, and take every proper opportunity to point out its nature and its practical applications. Such appear to have been the views of the author of the present sermon, if we may judge by the strain in which he speaks of the interesting article of faith, which he undertakes to examine and enforce.

The text is Ephes. i. 7.—*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.* The introduction is concise, comprehensive, and happy. The author then proceeds to develope the method of his discourse, which is, 1. To explain that *forgiveness of sins* which is promised in the text. 2. To ex-

hibit the ground of this forgiveness, *the redemption of the Saviour's blood.* 3. To display the source whence the benefit proceeds, *the riches of his grace.* Each of these heads is well discussed. We do not perceive, indeed, any thing new or original in the mode of stating and defending them; but Mr. Mason discovers himself to possess distinct views of the various topics which come under consideration, and on all expresses himself with clearness and force.

The following is a part of the author's reasoning on the principle of *substitution*, which is necessarily involved in the doctrine of atonement.

"God has always dealt with men through the medium of representation. The fall of our first parent, who, as our surety, transgressed the covenant of his God, 'brought death into the world and all our woe.' *In Adam all die:* for *in him all have sinned.* In his covenant with Israel, God urged the blessing or the curse which he should bring on their posterity, as motives to deter them from sin, and secure their obedience. He has revealed himself as *a jealous God; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate him; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love him and keep his commandments.* In holy baptism parents are the sureties of their infant children. The baptismal vow, (let the truth, O young people, sink down into your hearts!) the baptismal vow is binding upon them; and if they despise it in riper years, especially if they die unbelievers in that Saviour to whom they were dedicated, God will plead with their souls for the profanation of that *blood of the covenant* of which the symbol has been sprinkled upon them. In the present crisis of human things, the vials of his wrath are poured out upon the posterity of those who betrayed his truth, and slew his servants. He gives them blood to drink for the blood of his saints which was shed by their ancestors. Nay, while the sentence is on my lips, thousands of Adam's children, incapable of action, are writhing in agony and sinking in death, the victims of his curse, though not, by any personal agency, the partakers of his crime. The world, then, is full of the imputation of sin. And why shall it not as well be imputed *to* a representative for expiation, as *from* a representative for punishment?

"From this strong ground we are not to be driven by the plea, that righteousness and sin, being moral and personal qualities and acts, cannot be transferred to a surety. We know it. Neither do the scriptures teach, nor we maintain,

any such transfer. Instead of establishing, it would destroy, our doctrine. We admit that personal acts cannot be *transferred;* but affirm that they are *imputed.* Imputation lies in transferring to a surety, not the qualities and acts themselves, but their *legal connection.* It is a transfer of *obligation* and of *right.* The moral principle of this transfer, or, in other words, of the imputation of sin to a surety, enters into every case of representation, whatever be its objects or modifications. And the question, How can sin be expiated by a surety? which stumbles all *the disputers of this world,* has the same embarrassments, and the same solution as the question, How can the deed of my *representative* be sustained in law and equity as *my own?* It is for these disputers to shew why I may not as well *suffer* as *act,* by representation? Our astonishment in every other instance but that of the kinsman-Redeemer, would be, not that the principle of imputation should be admitted, but that it should be doubted. As it continually recurs, we lose its difficulty in its utility, and forget that it is mysterious, because it is familiar.

"A vicarious atonement being thus consistent with the divine righteousness, the chief obstacle to our hope is surmounted, and the apparent contradiction between the pardon and the punishment of sin, vanishes. But our joy is premature. We have discovered that pardon, through an atonement, is possible; but an essential point remains to be settled. By whom shall the atonement be made? Here is a new and a sad perplexity. In vain we cast our imploring look upon the creatures: Not one of them has the love or the power."

The following paragraph may serve as a specimen of Mr. M.'s animated and energetic manner, in applying his subject by way of immediate address.

"In some, who congratulate themselves on their escape from the bondage of superstition; and who remit religious care to minds incapable of liberal research, this doctrine of forgiveness may, perhaps, excite only a smile of scorn. Yet with all their contempt for what they call vulgar prejudice, and all their superiority to religious belief, they must allow me one moment to expostulate. *We* rejoice in the salvation of Christ Jesus: it is our greatest happiness that we have redemption through his blood; the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. *You* affect to pity and despise us; while you reject our Redeemer's cross, and *put him to an open shame.* To justify this violence, your own hope ought to be better founded, and more animating than ours. Is this the

fact? Are you *sure* that you have committed no offence which, without forgiveness, must ruin you for ever? Are you *sure* that there is forgiveness with God in any other manner than through the redemption of the Saviour's blood? or that the gospel which reveals it may not prove true at last? Are you *sure* that your own sins are pardoned? or that you run no hazard of any judgment to come? Can you produce a single instance of pardoned sin except through the obedience and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ? On what, then, do you presume? I shut up this volume of inspiration, and challenge your hope. What is its nature? and where is its warrant? Is it in these heavens? Is it in that deep? Is it inscribed on any page of Creation's book? or engraven on the tablets of Conscience? Unbeliever! give glory to God, and homage to his truth. Thou knowest that on all these points, on all that awaits thee beyond the grave, thou art tossed from conjecture to conjecture; and thy most flattering expectation is, at best, but dread uncertainty. Upon such slender ground, in the love and indulgence of a thousand lusts, thou art about to take the adventurous leap into a world of everlasting retribution! And, with all this, thou art a man of reason, a philosopher, who never believes but on evidence, nor acts but from conviction, and looks down with disdain upon the Christian's faith! God have mercy on thee, poor fanatic! Yet thou canst not altogether stifle thy secret misgivings. There are times when, like Felix, thou tremblest! Guilt, with all thy boastings, makes thee a coward. Nor wilt thou ever find relief but in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Be persuaded to try this happiest of all experiments. He is rich in mercy, and ready to forgive even thee. A refusal will cost thee thy soul; and thou wilt perish under that most fearful condemnation which will follow the rejection of eternal life, when it was near, *even at the door.*"

We have repeatedly had occasion to remark on Mr. M.'s style. He is certainly no common writer. And though the reader of taste will sometimes perceive a want of simplicity in his mode of expression, and, perhaps, in a few instances, find fault with the decisive manner which he adopts; yet his rapid and powerful eloquence cannot fail to please and interest. The ardour and earnestness which every where appear are peculiarly becoming in the oratory of the pulpit.

ARTICLE XVIII.

A Sermon, preached at Cambridge, Jan. 4th, 1801. *By* Abiel Holmes, *A. M. Pastor of the first Church in Cambridge.* 8vo. pp. 27. *Cambridge.* Hilliard. 1801.

THE author of this sermon, in a summary manner, recounts the most interesting events relative to this country within the last century, and takes a particular review of the affairs of Cambridge, since its first settlement. A great many facts are collected, and a variety of local details displayed, which, no doubt, are interesting to the inhabitants of that place. Mr. H. is by no means an inanimate writer, and in the historical parts of his discourse, discovers much industrious research.

ARTICLE XIX.

A Sermon, delivered in West Springfield, on the first Day of the 19th Century. By Joseph Lathrop, *D. D.* 8vo. pp. 26. *Springfield.* Ashley & Brown. 1801.

THE rise and progress of christianity in the old world is briefly narrated by Dr. Lathrop in the first twelve pages of his sermon. He then relates some of the principal circumstances respecting the first emigrants to New-England; gives a short account of the dangers and difficulties they encountered; and then proceeds to compute the increase of our national strength, wealth and prosperity during the last century. Dr. L. concludes his discourse with some speculations on the prophecies of old, and reckons that in about forty-five years "after the exit of popery," "which has already received a mortal wound," "a glorious reformation will begin to make its appearance."

The observations of the author throughout are judicious, though not distinguished for originality. His remarks on the press are rather trite, and the style of his comparison between the American and European character is tame and inelegant.

The language of this discourse is, in general, correct, though there are several instances of loose and inappropriate diction. In page 6 Dr. L. says, " our Redeemer appeared on the public theatre." The term theatre is so commonly applied to the play-house, that when we are told a person made his appearance on the theatre, we very naturally think of the *boards.*

Another instance of the same kind of awkward expression occurs, p. 20.

" Some of our *literary writers* in theology, history, philosophy, poetry, and *other sciences,* might appear with reputation and acquire celebrity *on an European theatre.*"

ARTICLE XX.

An Oration, delivered at the Request of the Officers of the Brigade of the City and County of New-York, and of the County of Richmond, before them and the Mechanic, Tamany, and Cooper's Societies, on the fourth July, 1801, *in Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of American Independence. By* George I. Eacker. 8vo. pp. 21. *New-York.* Durell. 1801.

IN the topics of declamation selected by this writer there is not sufficient novelty nor ingenuity to repay us, or the reader, for making them the subject of particular remark. He has pursued a beaten path, and his efforts to adorn it with the flowers of rhetoric are feeble and ineffectual.

It is, indeed, a very incorrect piece of oratory; abounding with crude thoughts and half formed images of things; violating, in numerous instances, the rules of metaphorical propriety, and the essential laws of English composition.

With the political opinions expressed by Mr. Eacker we do not meddle, believing that politics ought to be proscribed from a work which professes to be entirely devoted to letters.

Review of Foreign Works republished.

ARTICLE I.

A new System of Stenography, or Short-hand. *By* Thomas Rees. *Philadelphia.* Humphreys. 1800.

THIS performance is recommended to the public, in a Philadelphia newspaper, as being "intelligible even to dull perception, and easy even to desultory and procrastinating indolence." The eulogium naturally excited high expectations; and when we observed that the English Reviewers had been still more profuse of commendation, we supposed that, at last, a system of stenography had been discovered which would render those extant (of which there are nearly fifty) altogether useless.

The following is quoted by the editor, in his preface, as the opinion of the English Reviewers: "We do not hesitate to affirm, that it is the best, because the easiest, system of short-hand that has at any time come under our observation." And this is added as the opinion of the editors of the Monthly Mirror: "We have minutely examined this system of short-hand, which we pronounce the most simple and easy that has yet come within our knowledge." We apprehend, however, that a careful examination will induce the reader to believe that the Philadelphia editor had relied altogether on the editors of the Monthly Mirror, and that the editors of the Monthly Mirror had relied on the English Reviewers, and the English Reviewers upon the indolence of the public or the assertion of the author.

The first glance at the alphabet, and at the table annexed, excited such suspicion as to induce us to put the system to a trial; and, in opposition to such formidable names, we now venture to assert, that the characters of Mr. Rees are complicated in their texture, difficult to be united, wanting in lineality, and unsusceptible of dispatch; consequently essentially defective for every purpose of stenography.

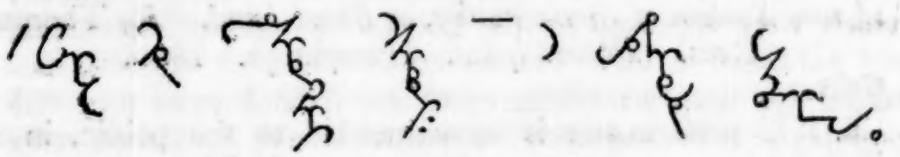
But as we do not mean to rest on assertion, we subjoin a specimen of this system as it appears in composition, although the author, differing from others in this respect, has chosen to avoid doing this himself, calling it an "*expensive parade.*"

The following diagraph will afford a test for the correctness of our opinion.

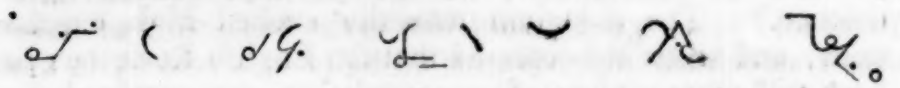
EXAMPLE.

A curious and extraordinary introduction of an improved stenography.

REES.



BYROM.



There is no room here for mistake or injustice, as Mr. Rees, in a table annexed, has given the junction of every two letters in the alphabet.

Is this *new system* seriously meant as an improvement in stenography? or intended as a burlesque?

LITERARY JOURNAL.

INTELLIGENCE.

DISCOVERIES IN MINERALOGY.

MOLYBDÆNA has been repeatedly found in the granitical rocks, which abound in the southern parts of the State of New-York.—Beautiful ZEOLYTES have been lately discovered at Hobocken, filling up veins in the rocks of Telgstein and Jade, which abound thereabout—and by the blowing down of a tree in the town of New-Marlborough, west of Poughkeepsie, and near the bank of the Hudson, a *parcel of coal has been laid bare.* Smiths have worked this in their forges, and find it to be of a good quality. The specimen of it sent us burned very well, affording much blaze, and emitting a bright light. Future researches and experiments can only determine whether this valuable material exists there in quantity sufficient to supply the metropolis, and lessen the extravagant and increasing price of fire-wood. [*Med. Rep.*

ADULTERATIONS OF PEARL-ASH.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. William Henry, of Manchester, in Great-Britain, to Dr. Mitchill, concerning the Adulterations of American Pearl-ash, dated February 2, 1801.

"It is now nearly thirty years since my father introduced some improvements into the process for preparing magnesia, which were approved by the London College of Physicians, and published in their Transactions. Calcined magnesia being, at that time, a medicine extremely difficult to be procured genuine, and, consequently, very little in use, my father, with the advice of some of the leading members of the College, undertook the manufacture, and has continued it to this day. About four years ago I joined him in the business, and have made considerable improvements in the process (chiefly in the mode of purifying the alkali), which enable us to offer to the public an article of very superior quality. There is one impurity, however, very frequently found in the alkali, which, of late years, has thrown considerable difficulties in our way; and which no one, of the almost numberless experiments I have made, has instructed us to separate. This is the carbonate of lime, for which, in small proportion, the carbonate of pot-ash has so strong an affinity, that no chemical expedient I am acquainted with can wholly detach it. This carbonate of lime may be discovered in an alkali in the following manner: Mix a solution of the best American pearl-ash with one of sulphate of magnesia; wash the carbonate of magnesia very well, and expose it, in open day, to a very strong heat for a sufficient length of time. The calcined magnesia ought to be perfectly insipid; but it will often be found to have a very pungent and caustic taste; and on digesting it with distilled water, a true lime-water will be obtained. Now, as the same sulphate of magnesia, with a solution of pearl-ash, from a different barrel, or a different manufacture, will afford a magnesia perfectly insipid after calcination, and which imparts no impregnation to water, it is clear that the defect must have been in the alkali. The lime, contained in carbonate of pot-ash, cannot, on account of its strong affinity for carbonic acid, exist in the state of pure lime, and must, therefore, be present in a carbonated form. On mixing the alkaline solution with one of sulphate of magnesia, this carbonate is precipitated along with the carbonate of magnesia; and the impurity does not become perceptible to the taste till the carbonic acid is expelled from both by calcination.

"Of late years this defect in pearl-ashes has become almost universal; and during the last eight or ten months we have not been able to meet with any American pearl-ashes fit for the manufacture of calcined magnesia. That the adulteration is not practised in this country, I satisfied myself by remaining some time in Liverpool, and trying samples from the warehouses of the most respectable merchants there, whose assurances that the ashes were really as imported I cannot possibly doubt.

"The lime, I conceive, is purposely introduced into the ashes by the American manufacturers, not with the intention of a fraudulent alteration, but with some view to the improvement of the article. It is, perhaps, added to the ley, with the view of clearing and strengthening it; and part of it, being chemically dissolved, will adhere to the clear ley, and even to the dry alkali. Now, a very few grains of carbonate of lime, in a hundred weight of pearl-ashes, will totally unfit them for the preparation of magnesia; and a small quantity of mortar, from the brick-work of the ovens, will spoil a very considerable quantity of alkali. We are peculiarly anxious to obtain a supply of pearl-ashes, in the manufacture of which every source of lime has been carefully avoided. We should even wish a careful trial to be made of each barrel, or, at least, of each lot of barrels of one boiling, before the ashes were sent to us. This trial might be conducted as follows:—Dissolve four ounces of pearl-ash (we use none but the first sort) in four ounces of distilled water, and four ounces of sulphate of magnesia in the same quantity of water, mix the two solutions, and wash off the sulphate of pot-ash by repeated affusions of hot water, which should be quite free from carbonate of lime or sulphate of lime; dry the magnesia, and calcine it during two hours in a strong fire. If the calcined magnesia, when mixed with a little water, be absolutely tasteless, the ashes will answer. To ascertain their purity decisively, digest about a dram of the calcined magnesia in half an ounce measure, or more, of distilled water, for half an hour, shaking it occasionally; filter the liquor, and blow air through it from the lungs, by means of a tobacco-pipe; and to another portion add a little oxalic acid. If neither of these tests indicates lime, the magnesia is pure, and the ashes may be purchased.

"To bring within a short view what I have to request, I subjoin the following queries:

"1. By what means does the carbonate of lime gain admittance into the American pot and pearl ashes?

"2. If the source of it be known, is it one that can be easily avoided?

"3. If the lime be purposely added, and this addition be, in general, necessary, could we not have ashes manufactured expressly for our use, without this admixture?

"4. Is the exportation of the unlixiviated wood-ashes permitted; and could we not obtain a purer alkali by importing these wood-ashes, and lixiviating them ourselves?

"5. Would you, or any other person you might point out, undertake to make, carefully, the necessary experiments on the pearl-ashes intended for us, before they are sent from America? For such assistance we should be ready to make a liberal compensation.

"6. Supposing that it is possible to have an alkali made purposely for our own use, how long a time would elapse between the order from New-York to have them manufactured, and their being sent from an American port?"

INSPECTION OF POT-ASH.

The great variety of forms and other qualities American pot-ash puts on, has rendered it necessary to subject it by law to an inspector, who shall judge whether it is merchantable or not. As to its *colour*, pot-ash is brown, red, black, yellow, white, cream-coloured, green and blue, with various stripes and mixtures of these. Its consistence is as various, being flinty, grained, unctuous, crumbly, frothy, scaly, honey-combed and crystallized, in different curious connections. Its adulterations are scarcely less numerous; for it is found to be blended with quick-lime, silicious gravel, granite, carbonate of lime, sulphate of lime, and muriate of soda; and the most of these are added for the purposes of deception by the manufacturers. The nice inspection of this alkali is not a very easy nor a very certain business. The man of science, who only has read elementary books, talks of pot-ash as a thing perfectly understood. But his ideas apply to the alkali in its pure state, and have very little reference to it mixed and adulterated as it actually exists in the market. However, a less scrupulous examination suffices for the common purposes of trade.—As it appears to be a compound, there is another source of variety in pot-ash than the foreign ingredients mingled with it. And this is the different proportions of the constituent materials of the alkali itself, and their different degrees of attractive force; making various modifications of the salt independent of actual impurity. There is reason, too, to be-

lieve, that in some of its forms pot-ash associates with oxygen; for many samples of it, when examined by the inspectors, have *an acid flavour*, and *impart sourness to the organ of taste:* and this peculiarity is very familiar to them. These sorts of pot-ash are always of a very faulty quality. In short, this is a substance concerning which we have got a great deal yet to learn; and New-York, where it can be seen in all its forms during the manufacturing operation, and while it is undergoing inspection immediately after it is sent to market, is one of the best places for observing these things. [*Med. Rep.*

VOYAGES TO SOUTHERN GEORGIA.

This antarctic island, which is not classed by geographers with any of the eastern quarters of the globe, belongs properly to America. Though too cold and inhospitable for the permanent residence of man, it is much frequented by ships from New-York, and other parts of the United States, for the skins of the seals and the oil of the sea-elephants which abound there. The harpoon has been thrown with such destructive success in every part of the Atlantic, that whales have become more scarce, and voyages for that species of game are less profitable than formerly. This has turned the attention of the whalemen to other prey; and Southern Georgia is now visited for the purpose of killing the seals and sea elephants which live and breed there in prodigious numbers, and have not, until lately, been much pursued or hunted by man. The havock made among them must, notwithstanding their prolific powers, greatly thin their numbers, and diminish the species; and what expedient will be afterwards resorted to for oil is uncertain. [*Med. Rep.*

SKELETON OF THE UNKNOWN QUADRUPED.

The large fossil bones of which we gave some account in our vol. iv. p. 211, have been purchased by Mr. Peale, of Philadelphia. On putting them together, he finds they already amount to a considerable part of a skeleton. The proprietor intends to continue digging in the spot where they were found to obtain the remainder, and there is every reason to believe his attempt will be successful. From actual measurement, it now is ascertained that the animal to whom they belonged was between twelve and fifteen feet high. A complete skeleton of this enormous creature will be a grand addition to Mr. Peale's Museum, and tend to refute the opinion of some speculative philosophers, that the animals of the western conti-

nent are of a puny or diminutive growth. These bones, when put together, will prove that New-York has once supported the largest quadruped of which there is any description in zoology. [*Med. Rep.*

The proprietor having continued the digging for the remainder of the bones, has succeeded beyond expectation, and is now in possession of sufficient to form two complete skeletons.

THE AMERICAN BISON.

An animal of this species has been for some time exhibited in New-York. He is a male, and was taken on the west side of the Mississippi. He has a shaggy covering of hair on his pate, under his jaw, along his neck, and on the back part of his fore legs. His shoulders are very much elevated, so that the depth from the withers through to the brisket is greater, in proportion, than, perhaps, in any other creature. The hinder parts taper away, and are comparitively of a diminutive size. This bison has covered a number of our domesticated cows. He is strong, and so capable of defending himself, that though he has often been baited by two bull-dogs at once, they have not been able to fasten him. He was taken when a calf, and is now so docile as to be easily managed by means of a ring in his nose. He feeds upon grass, hay, &c. like common neat cattle.

Some of the naturalists who have seen this animal have doubted to which of the *species* of the BOS family he belongs. It seems to be settled among the zoologists, that the genus of BOS is divided into *two important* species—the bison and the buffaloe. To the bison belong the varieties known by the names of *bonasus* by Aristotle and the Greeks; of *urus* by Cæsar; of *aurochs* by the harsh modern imitators of that Latin name; of *bison* by Pliny; of *bos ferus* by Strabo; and of *zebu*, or small Barbary cow, by travellers from Africa. These are affirmed to intermingle and breed with each other, and their offspring are not mules, but can perpetuate their race. To the *buffaloes*, who seem to have been unknown to the ancients, belongs that species of ox which, about the seventh century, was imported from Africa into Italy, and domesticated there, and is known latterly by the very improper appellation of *bubalus*. These have no sexual or other intercourse with the bison; and are destitute of the elevated structure of the shoulders. Our neat cattle are the descendants of the bison, not of the buffaloe.

The figure of the bison, in Goldsmith's second volume of his history of the Earth and animated Nature, has a nearer resemblance to the variety we are describing than any we have seen. The figures of the urus and bison, in Bewick's History of Quadrupeds, are of the same general character; and the latter, particularly, has a near likeness to this native American. The withers of the former are not high enough. In two editions of Buffon and Daubenton's Zoology, (vol. xxiii.) which we have consulted, there is a figure of the buffaloe, but not of the bison. Pennant, in his Arctic Zoology, vol. iii. has described the bison very well; though it is presumable there are more varieties of the breed than we are yet acquainted with. It is a remarkable fact, that, with such a creature in their neighbourhood, of a temper so very docile, and capable of becoming so singularly useful to man, the aborigines of the western continent seem never to have thought of taming it! The domesticated kine of America are all descended from the milch cows of Europe. The bisons still continue in their savage state, and constitute one part of the cattle of the forests; while the offspring of imported cows, turned out to range at large in the wilds of Brazil and La Plata, and gradually returning to the state of freedom and fierceness, forms the other. [*Med. Rep.*

ANOTHER ETHIOPIAN TURNING TO A WHITE MAN.

In a letter to the editors, dated Lichfield (Connecticut), June 28, 1801, Mr. A. Catlin relates another instance of a negro gradually losing his blackness without disease.—"Pompey, a very healthy negro, of about twenty-six years of age, about two years since discovered on his right thigh a small white spot, which, from that to the present time, has been constantly increasing to the size of nearly a half-crown piece; while there have appeared, on other parts of his body, other spots, to the number of twelve, of different sizes, but all constantly and gradually enlarging. In several of the spots the margin is perfectly defined, from a distinct line between the clear white and the natural colour. In others there are circumscribed rings of a dun appearance, the external margin of which is very regular. I have the fullest belief that a very few years will complete the total change." [*Med. Rep.*

MEDICAL COMMENCEMENT AT PHILADELPHIA.

At a public commencement, held in the hall of the University of Pennsylvania, on Monday, the 8th of June, degrees of

Doctor of Medicine were conferred on the following gentlemen, who presented and defended their respective Inaugural Dissertations.

Henry Wilson Lockette, of Virginia, on the Warm Bath.

Nathaniel Chapman, of Virginia, on the Canine State of Fever.

William Wyatt Bibb, of Georgia, an Inquiry into the Modus Operandi of Medicines upon the Human Body; to which are added some observations on the action of the lymphatics.

James Tongue, of Maryland, on the three following subjects: 1. An attempt to prove that Lues Venerea was not introduced into Europe from America. 2. An experimental inquiry into the Modus Operandi of Mercury in curing the Lues Venerea. 3. Experimental proofs that the Lues Venerea and Gonorrhœa are two distinct forms of disease.

Samuel Gartley, of Philadelphia, on Bubonocele.

Thomas Semmes, of Maryland, on the effects of Lead, comprising a few experiments on Saccharum Saturni, and its application in the cure of diseases.

Jarvis Roebuck, of the island of St. Croix, experiments and observations on the Bile.

Benjamin G. Hodge, of the West-Indies, experiments and observations on the Absorption of Active Medicines into the Circulation.

William Stephen Jacobs, of Brabant, experiments and observations on Urinary and Intestinal Calculi.

William Brown, of Pennsylvania, on Uterine Hæmorrhage.

IMPOSTURE DETECTED.

Not long ago a sample of *coal* was brought to New-York, which was said to have been found in Ulster County, near the bank of the Hudson, a little west of Poughkeepsie. The existence of a coal mine thereabouts was deemed important enough to deserve particular investigation. Accordingly, Judge Livingston, and a company of gentlemen, went to explore the place where the coal was said to have been discovered. They report that the country in that neighbourhood is underlaid by hard greenish slate; that there never was an ounce of mineral coal there, except what had been carried thither for the purpose of deception, and that the rumour was contrived by a designing fellow to procure money from the proprietors of the soil.

RAISING OF GRAPES.

Commodore Nicholson has cultivated vines with great success for a number of years in New-York. One of his methods of securing their leaves, blossoms, and fruit from the corroding and blasting effects of the exhalations of the earth, which is rich, fat and abundantly manured, is to cover the soil for eight or ten inches around the vine-stock with small pieces of mild lime-stone, or to pave it with the shells of roasted oysters. From soils lightly manured, or naturally abounding with animal matter, there ascends, during its putrefaction, a septic vapour, which is sometimes so *acid* as to injure the vines. This is effectually checked and neutralized by *calcareous* substances. His practice accords perfectly with European experience, which has determined that *calcareous soil* in general is proper for the vine, as are other light, sandy and pebbly lands.

PESTILENCE OPPOSED BY ALKALIES.

Dr. Priestley, in a communication lately made to Dr. Rush, has offered additional proofs of *the acidity of pestilential exhalations.* After mentioning that the vapours caused pains in the head, violent vomitings, &c. and that they blackened silver and copper, he infers from this direct evidence that they must be *acid*, and, consequently, capable of being counteracted by *alkalies*, as recommended by Dr. Mitchill, in his letter to the Mayor of New-York. This experienced philosopher, who is now enriching America with the treasures of science from his residence at Northumberland, hesitates a little as to the precise constitution of this acid, but concludes, that whatever that may be, *alkaline substances afford the most rational means of correcting it.*

AN IMPROVED HARMONICA.

Mr. John Bradford, a citizen of Lexington, Editor of the Kentucky Gazette, has suggested an improvement in the construction of the *Harmonica.* His first effort was to produce the tones, by friction, with gum elastic, or Indian rubber. Whilst he was making trial with this substance, it occurred to him that horse-hair would more completely answer his purpose. Accordingly he commenced his experiments with the bow of a common violin, and had the satisfaction to find that in this manner he could produce every tone in the musical scale. Nay, so strong is the vibration which may be produced by this means, that the glasses were sometimes broken into a thousand pieces by a very gentle effort. Owing to the diffi-

culty of procuring glasses of a proper size and shape in Kentucky, Mr. Bradford has not been able to realize his ingenious plan; which was to construct his instrument with keys, having bows on them, and to fix his glasses on a horizontal axis, which could be turned by the foot, so that the instrument would have the appearance of an organized piano forte. He has, however, tuned a ring of chamber bells, by grinding or turning them, and, with a bow, plays simple airs on them very agreeably.—It is to be hoped that some of our amateurs will attempt the construction of the Harmonica on this new plan.

New Publications, and Works preparing for the Press.

JAMES HUMPHREYS, of Philadelphia, has lately published, in one large octavo volume, the *Oriental Navigator; or new Directions for sailing to and from the East-Indies, &c. &c. with an Appendix, containing an Account of new Tracks and Discoveries, &c. &c.*—The increasing commerce between the United States and the East-Indies called for the republication of this work. The variety and accuracy of the information it contains renders it an useful and necessary companion to every navigator and seaman, and it is well deserving the attention of the American merchant engaged in the commerce with the East. The great difference between the price of the American and London edition is an additional recommendation in favour of the former. It is very neatly and correctly printed.

Mr. HUMPHREYS has also published the first and second volumes of ROBINSON'*s Reports of Cases in the High Court of Admiralty in Great-Britain.* These Reports are a very valuable addition to the very few books which we have relative to the proceedings and decisions of the British Admiralty Court. They are peculiarly deserving the attention of the American lawyer whose inquiries are directed to this branch of law, since he must have hitherto been almost wholly ignorant, for want of reports, of the principles which have been decided in a court where the rights of so many of our own citizens are litigated. The inquisitive and intelligent merchant may, by the perusal of these volumes, add to his stock of information many important particulars relative to the conduct of trade and the laws of nations.

Messrs. THOMAS and THOMAS, of Walpole, (N. H.) have reprinted, from the last London edition, in two large octavo volumes, *A Digest of the Law of Actions at Nisi Prius, &c.* by ISAAC ESPINASSE.

Messrs. ISAAC COLLINS and Son, of this city, have lately reprinted the following works of Mr. LINDLEY MURRAY: —1. The *English Reader; or Pieces in Prose and Poetry, selected from the best Writers.* 2. *Sequel to the English Reader; or elegant Selections in Prose and Poetry, designed for the highest Class of Readers.* 3. *English Grammar.* 4. An *Abridgment of the English Grammar, for the younger Classes.* These editions possess the neatness and accuracy which distinguish the press of Mr. COLLINS, and which are so necessary in books designed for the instruction of youth. —In the *Monthly Magazine and American Review* (vol. iii. p. 311) notice was taken of the Grammar of Mr. MURRAY. We can only repeat our opinion that it is the best work of the kind that has appeared in our language. The *Exercises and Key*, which are published in a separate volume, are valuable, and must greatly facilitate the acquisition of correctness and perspicuity in writing. The *Grammar* has passed through *seven* editions in England, and has received, as well as the other publications of Mr. MURRAY, the uniform approbation of literary characters and journalists. We do not hesitate warmly to recommend them to the instructors of youth in every part of the United States, as eminently conducive to pure morality and religion, and to the acquisition of a correct and elegant style. They deserve to take place of all other works of the same kind which are now used in our schools.

Messrs. BIRCH and SMALL, of Philadelphia, have just published the first volume of RUSSELL's *Ancient Europe.* It is printed in the same size and style with their edition of *Modern Europe*, by the same author.

Messrs. CONRAD and Co. booksellers of Philadelphia, have published the three first volumes of their *Select Novels.* The work throughout is executed in a uniform and neat manner, ornamented with good engravings.

CORNELIUS DAVIS, of this city, bookseller, has just published, *Worlds displayed, for the Benefit of young People; by a familiar History of some of their Inhabitants.* The design of this little book is to impress the minds of young people with the importance of time and eternity, and to exhibit their close connection.

A *Discourse, delivered on the Annual Fast in Massachusetts,*

by NATHANAEL EMMONS, D. D. *Pastor of the Church in Franklin,* has been printed by T. and J. SWORDS, for C. DAVIS. In this sermon a parallel is attempted to be drawn between the President of the United States and Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, "*who drave Israel from following the Lord.*" It appears that this discourse was prepared and delivered about one month after the inauguration of Mr. JEFFERSON.

A Pamphlet, under the signature of *Lucius Junius Brutus,* lately issued from the press of Mr. G. F. HOPKINS, in this city, entitled, "*An Examination of the President's Reply to the New-Haven Remonstrance, with an Appendix,*" &c. &c. The author of this severe scrutiny into the administration of Mr. JEFFERSON is not known.

An *Answer* to the above *Examination* has also been published under the signature of *Leonidas.*

Moreland Vale, or the Fair Fugitive, a new novel, by a Lady of New-York, has been published by Mr. S. CAMPBELL. It will be more particularly noticed in a future number.

Mr. CAMPBELL has also reprinted *Tales of Wonder,* by G. M. LEWIS.

ELIHU PALMER has published a book which he calls *Principles of Nature, or a Developement of the Moral Causes of Happiness and Misery among the Human Species.* It will be attended to in the next Review.

Messrs. WARD and Co. have published an American edition of the *Life of* VON KOTZEBUE, written by himself; together with his flight to Paris. The admirers of that celebrated dramatist will peruse this volume with much gratification. It abounds with much eloquent expression and pathetic narrative.

The first number of a handsome *Family Bible,* ornamented with a frontispiece, has been published by Mr. W. DURELL, bookseller, Maiden-lane. This Bible is printing in fifteen numbers, crown folio, on a large and elegant type. Engravings are to accompany the work.

T. & J. SWORDS have in the press, *Lexicon Physico-Medicum, or a new Medical Dictionary; explaining the difficult terms used in the several branches of the profession, and in such parts of natural philosophy as are introductory thereto; with an account of the things signified by such terms; collected from the most eminent authors, by* JOHN QUINCY, M. D. It is to be printed from the eleventh London edition, with very considerable amendments and additions, by Doctors

MITCHILL and MILLER, and will be a valuable acquisition to such persons as are connected with the science of medicine.

GEORGE F. HOPKINS, of this city, has in the press, the *Seasons*, by JAMES THOMSON. It will appear in a duodecimo form, on a small demy wove paper, made for the purpose, and will be ornamented with four copper-plate engravings by ROBERTS, and four engravings on wood by ANDERSON. From specimens of the work which we have seen, we think ourselves justifiable in saying, that it will be executed in a style that will do credit to the artists employed, and reflect additional reputation on the press of Mr. HOPKINS.

Lex Mercatoria, or American Merchants' Law, by GEORGE CAINES, Counsellor at Law, New-York, will in a few weeks be put to press and published by Messrs. BROWN and STANSBURY. The work is represented as original, and will treat of the following subjects, in two large sized octavo volumes, viz.

The Laws of Navigation and Shipping—The English Navigation Laws so far as they relate to this country—Respecting Owners of Ships, Masters and Mariners; with the Remedies for and against each other—Of Nations; respecting Neuters and their Rights, with useful directions in cases of Capture and Detention—The Law of Partnerships—Of Bankruptcy—Of Insurance, Respondentia, and Bottomree—Of Bills of Exchange—Of Inland Bills and Notes of Hand—Of Arbitration and Awards—Of Bailments—Of Agents, Factors, Auctioneers and Wharfingers—Of Carriers by Land and Water, Proprietors of Stage Coaches, &c.—Of Wreck, Salvage, Jetsam, Flotsam, Ligan and Derelicts—The Law of Ambassadors, Privileged Persons, Consuls and Vice-Consuls; with Directions when and how to apply for their Aid and Protection in Foreign countries—Of Notaries Public; their importance in Commercial Transactions, and on what occasions to apply to them—Directions as to Foreign Debts, the Measures and Evidences necessary for their recovery—The Commerce of the United States with Foreign Nations, and that of the Individual States, one with the other—Custom-House Directions, &c. when in American and Foreign Ports—Table of Duties, and of Custom-House Rates, Drawbacks, &c.—Constitution of the United States—Constitutions of the several States of the Union—Treaties with Foreign Powers—Forms for Policies of Assurance, Respondentia and Bottomree Bonds, Articles of Partnership, Bills of Sale, Charter Parties, Arbitration and other Bonds, Awards, Assignments and Transfers of Ships,

Goods, Bills of Exchange, Bonds, Policies, &c. &c. and of Part Interests therein—Forms of Protests, Notarial and Consulate Proceedings, Letters of Attorney, Bills of Credit, &c.

Messrs. ISAAC COLLINS and Son have in the press, the *Powers of Religion on the Mind in Retirement, Affliction, and at the approach of Death, exemplified in the Testimonies and Experience of Persons distinguished by their Greatness, Learning or Virtue.* By LINDLEY MURRAY.—The very worthy and benevolent author, who left his native country for the benefit of his health, and now resides near York, England, has obligingly sent us the *tenth* and last edition of this valuable work. The improvements made in it will appear from the following advertisement of the author: "The tenth edition of this book has undergone considerable alterations. Twenty-two characters, comprising near a hundred pages, have been added to the work; and a few passages of inferior importance, or not immediately connected with the design of it, have been omitted. Almost every former piece has been augmented by explanatory matter; and the language, throughout, carefully corrected. The work is divided into chapters, and the pieces arranged according to the order of time. In its present state, it is presumed the book will prove more acceptable to persons of mature years; and be found calculated for the benefit of many in younger life. As it contains striking and animating views of piety and virtue, and strongly recommends the christian religion, it is hoped that instructors of youth will deem it a suitable book to be read, occasionally, by the higher classes of their pupils. It is of the greatest importance to impress young minds with favourable sentiments of religion and goodness; and to make them feel that every other attainment ought to be subordinate to a preparation for future happiness. To render the work more instructive, as well as more interesting to youth, there have been introduced into this edition many important moral sentiments, and a considerable portion of useful biographical information."—We can only add to this account of this useful volume, our hope that it may be extensively circulated among our countrymen.

CORNELIUS DAVIS, bookseller, of this city, has now in the press of Messrs. ISAAC COLLINS and SON, the *Gospel Worthy of Acceptation, or the Duty of Sinners to believe in Jesus Christ, second edition, with corrections and additions. To which is added, an appendix on the question, Whether the existence of any holy disposition of heart be necessary in order to believing in Christ?* By A. FULLER.

G. and R. WAITE have in the press, *A General History of Quadrupeds;* the figures engraved on wood, after the manner of BEWICK, by A. ANDERSON, of this city. From the specimens already given, it promises to be little inferior to the English edition. The publishers are procuring drawings and descriptions of American animals never before described, which will have a place in the *addenda.* The artist engaged in this undertaking is a native of this city, and it is hoped the work will meet that encouragement it deserves.

WILLIAM ELLIOT, of this city, has issued proposals for publishing by subscription, a periodical work, entitled the *Literary Miscellany.* This publication was begun in London some years since, and continues to meet with every encouragement which a judicious selection, superior quality of materials, and elegance of workmanship, justly merit. The printing will be executed by Mr. P. HEARD, on paper of the best quality, and with a new and handsome type.

H. CARITAT has in the press, *A Practical Treatise, or Compendium, of the Law of Marine Insurances.* By JOHN ILDERTON BURN.

The *Tablet of Taste,* embellished with twelve engravings and views by GILBERT FOX, from original drawings in various parts of the United States by ROBERTSON, is preparing for the press by Messrs. BROWN and STANSBURY. The frontispiece is to exhibit a correct representation of the Falls of Niagara, and an engraved Almanack for the ensuing year will be connected with the work. Descriptions of the several views, and a short selection of poetic pieces, and entertaining productions in prose, will complete the Tablet.

A *Map of the Northern Part of the State of New-York* has been compiled, from actual survey, by AMOS LAY and A. I. STANSBURY. It extends from Canada to the Mohawk River, and from Vermont to the Genesee country, comprising all the new lands at present so rapidly settling.

GORDON's *History of the American Revolution*—A new edition is now in the press, and will shortly be published, by Mr. SAMUEL CAMPBELL, bookseller.

WILLIAM M. FINLAY, of Springfield, New-Jersey, has issued proposals for publishing by subscription, a system of arithmetic, adapted to the schools and commerce of America, entitled the *Mercantile Accountant.* Containing particularly, a new system of exchange with all the commercial states of Europe, and the East and West-Indies; with short and approved rules for changing the monies of the United States into that of

all other places of trade, according to the intrinsic value of their different coins or currencies, real or imaginary, *et contra;* with rules for buying and selling, drawing and remitting, above and below par. The whole elucidated by a number of practical examples, showing how a merchant may turn the rise and fall of exchange to his advantage. With tables of foreign weights and measures, compared with the English foot, and pound avoirdupois. Likewise, a new system of interest, &c. together with a short system of mechanics.

Proposals are issued by B. and J. LORING, booksellers, Boston, for publishing by subscription, *Maps of Massachusetts Proper, and District of Maine,* compiled by Mr. OSGOOD CARLETON, from actual surveys made by order of the General Court; revised and corrected by the Rev. Dr. MORSE and Professor WEBBER, agents appointed by the court for that purpose, and engraved and published under the inspection and direction of said agents, and approved by the Legislature. "The want of a complete and accurate map of the State of Massachusetts induced the General Court to order surveys of the several towns and plantations in the State, with a view of obtaining materials for a correct map. From these surveys a map was drawn; but, on account of the many defects and errors of the engraving, it was rejected by the Legislature, though many copies of it were delivered to subscribers and sold as genuine. In consequence, the Legislature appointed the gentlemen above named their agents, to cause the maps to be taken into a new draft, and to be engraved and published under their inspection. The copperplates on which these new maps are engraved, together with the privilege of copy-right, have been presented, by the Legislature, to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Massachusetts Historical Society, for the advancement of learning and the good of science. These maps, the only genuine ones which have been published of this State, are constructed on a scale of four miles to an inch. The plate of Massachusetts Proper is 48 by 32 inches; that of Maine is 54 by 38. The vignettes, by Mr. G. GRAHAM, are emblematical of agriculture, commerce, &c. of the country. The engravings, by Messrs. CALLENDER and HILL, are executed in a style of accuracy and neatness rarely to be met with in America. Roads, churches, academies, court-houses, light-houses, mountains, rivers, bridges, canals, mills, &c. &c. are laid down: the distance of each town from Boston, and the shire town, and the longitude calculated from London, and from Washington. The maps are in all respects as correct

and finished as the means and nature of the work would admit. The publishers rely on the public approbation and patronage, especially as, on account of the expense of the surveys, compiling, and engraving, having been defrayed by the Commonwealth, the price is rendered moderate."

Proposals are issued by the Rev. Dr. J. MORSE, and the Rev. Mr. E. PARISH, for printing by subscription, a *Gazetteer of the Eastern Continent*, embracing Europe, Asia and Africa, with the adjacent islands. "This work contains a more complete and accurate list and description of the greater and smaller divisions of this portion of the globe than is [are] to be found in any other of the kind. The modern and most popular gazetteers have been minutely examined, and more than an hundred volumes of the latest and most approved voyages, travels, and other geographical books have been carefully read and improved [used] in the compilation of this work. More than a thousand articles will be found in this volume which are new, or materially corrected and enlarged. It has been an object with the compilers, in addition to the usual topographical description of places, to delineate the character of the inhabitants, their forms of government, customs, manners, and religions, and to admit the reader to as intimate an acquaintance with man, in the several stages of improvement, from the savage to the social state, as the nature and limits of the work would admit. They have constantly aimed to compress every article into as small a compass as, in their opinion, would consist with perspicuity and utility. Great care has been taken to give full and correct information concerning those places mentioned in the Scripture History, particularly those which are the subject of prophecy; and the surprising exactness with which the prophecies concerning them have been fulfilled has been carefully noticed. This part of the work, the compilers flatter themselves, will be peculiarly interesting and useful to the serious christian reader. This work is intended as a *second* volume; the *American Gazetteer*, published by one of the compilers in 1797, being the *first*. Together these volumes will contain a complete Gazetteer of the whole world.

C. R. and G. WEBSTER, of Albany, have in the press, the *Revised Laws of the State of New-York*, under the inspection of Judges KENT and RADCLIFF, agreeable to an act of the Legislature, passed on the 8th day of April, 1801. This work will be comprised in two octavo volumes.

BOOKS

Printed by T. & J. SWORDS, and for sale at their Book-store and Printing-Office, No. 99 Pearl-street,

1. THE Medical Repository, and Review of American publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Philosophy. A periodical publication, which appears quarterly—four numbers making a volume—seventeen numbers already published. Conducted by Drs. MITCHILL and MILLER.—This work is considered at least equal, if not superior, to any work of the kind at present published in Europe.

2. The Botanic Garden; a Poem in two parts. Part 1. Containing *the Economy of Vegetation.* Part 2. *The Loves of the Plants.* With Philosophical Notes. By ERASMUS DARWIN. An elegant edition, with seventeen Copperplates.

3. Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life. By the same Author.—The works of Dr. DARWIN are worthy the attention of the Physician and the Man of Science.

4. Lectures on Diet and Regimen; being a Systematic Inquiry into the most rational means of preserving Health, and prolonging Life; together with Physiological and Chemical Explanations, calculated chiefly for the use of Families, in order to banish the prevailing abuses and prejudices in Medicine. By A. F. M. WILLICH, M. D. —A work that ought to be in the possession of every housekeeper.

5. An Account of the Epidemic Fever which prevailed in the city of New-York, during part of the Summer and Fall of 1795. By RICHARD BAYLEY, late Health-Officer of New-York.

6. The Adventures of Telemachus, the Son of Ulysses, from the French of SALIGNAC DE LA MOTHE FENELON, Archbishop of Cambray, by the late JOHN HAWKESWORTH, L. L. D. Corrected and revised by G. GREGORY, D. D. joint evening preacher at the Foundling Hospital, and author of Essays, Historical and Moral, &c. With the Life of the Author, and a complete Index, Historical and Geographical. In two vols. octavo.—A very superb edition, ornamented with Engravings.

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8. The Duty of Executors and Administrators; pointing out, in a plain and familiar manner, how Executors are to proceed in the Probate of Wills, getting in the Effects, and paying the Debts and Legacies of their Testator; shewing also who are entitled by law to be the Administrators of an Intestate person; with full and clear Directions to a man's relations how his estate will be distributed among them, according to the Laws of South-Carolina. To which is prefixed, all the Statutes and Acts relative to these subjects, Mr. Blackstone's Rules for interpreting Wills and Deeds, and a Table of Inheritance, with a concise and easy explanation thereof. To which is added, a variety of Precedents of Wills, Codicils, &c. with instructions for every person to make, alter and republish his will; and likewise all the forms made use of in the Court of

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13. Watts' Psalms and Hymns, carefully suited to the Christian Worship in the United States of America; being an Improvement of the Old Version of the Psalms of David.—This edition is printed in 32mo. and is the completest, most correct, and neatest ever offered for sale in this country.

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I. & J. Swords have just received from Philadelphia, and for sale at No. 99 Pearl-street,

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